midlander

middle tennessee state university

2003
motion

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The beginning is the most important part of the work.

Motion, 2003

Midlander, Volume 78
Middle Tennessee State University's Yearbook
March 2002-February 2003

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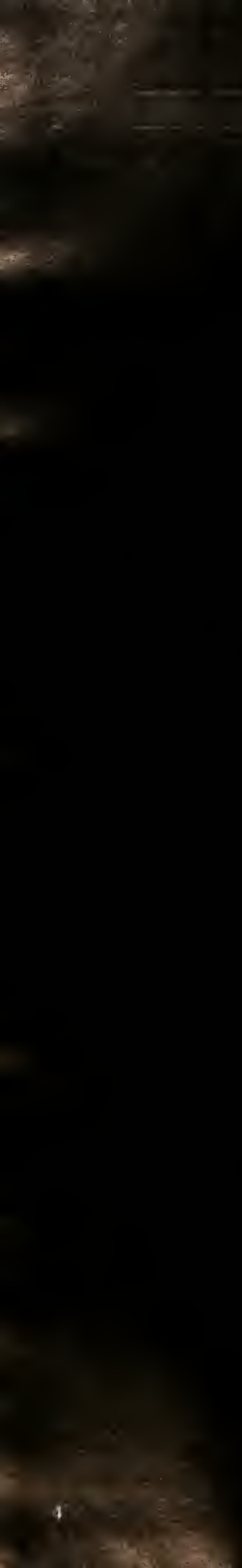

...a few gossamer yards grasping onto air and suspending below them, with invisible threads, a human life, a man who by stitches, cloth, and cord, had made himself a god of the sky for those immortal moments.

Flight

ion

All human actions have one or more of these seven causes: chance, nature, compulsions, habit, reason, passion, desire.

–Aristotle

Action

tion

The difference between perserverance and obstinacy is: that one comes from a strong will, and the other from a strong won't.

Henry Ward Beecher

Perserverance

otion

Let this be an example for the acquisition of all knowledge, virtue, and riches. By the fall of drops of water, by degrees, a pot is filled.

-The Hitopadesa

Progress

motion

Swift speedy time, feathered with flying hours, Dissolves the beauty of the fairest brow.

-Samuel Daniel

motion

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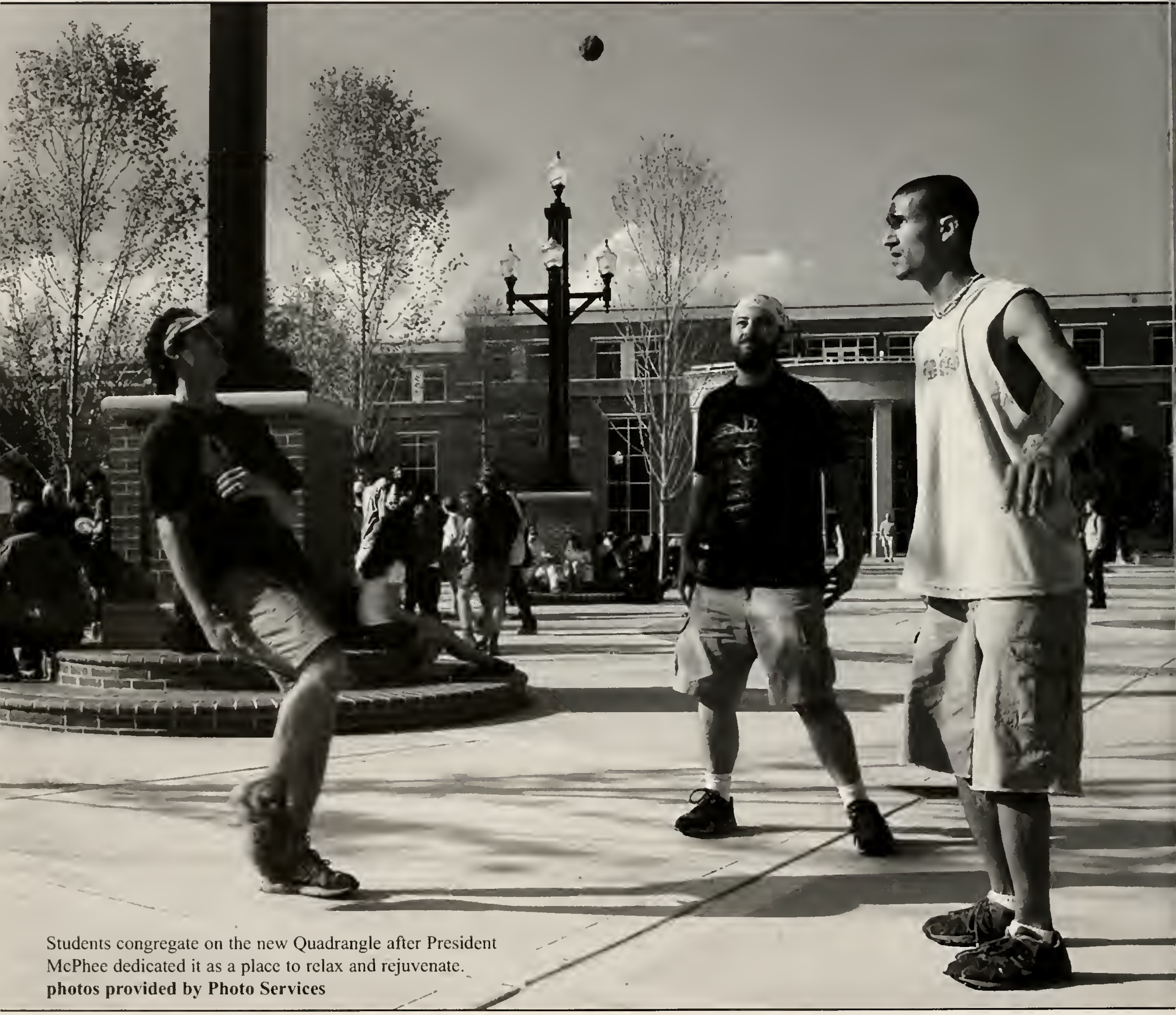
student life

Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save.

-Will Rogers

Quadra

New Center of Campus



Students congregate on the new Quadrangle after President McPhee dedicated it as a place to relax and rejuvenate.
photos provided by Photo Services

ngle

by Melissa Spoonamore

The Quadrangle is the area of campus that lies between the Business and Aerospace Building, the Bragg Mass Communication Building and the Walker Library. The Quad covers an area of 120,000 square feet and was constructed from granite and concrete. Sternberg light poles reaching 30 feet high were placed throughout the area.

The beautiful landscape of the Quadrangle is made up of Green Mountain sugar maples and magnolia trees. The area also features asters, daffodils, cannas and day lilies, making this area great scenery for students on their way to class or to the library.

Equipped with many great sitting areas, including seats on the lawn and the many brick benches, the Quadrangle gives students many opportunities to enjoy a beautiful day while eating, studying, napping, relaxing or just chatting with friends. Rickeeva Mills, a psychology major, says, "The landscaping of the area adds a nice eyesight to the campus and provides a good walkway for me on my way to class and work."

The university seal was carved in granite and placed in the center of the Quadrangle. Many famous quotations are engraved in the marble band that circles the university seal. More quotations can be found bordering the Quad area. Some of the more famous authors of these quotations are William Shakespeare, Martin Luther King, Jr., Emily Dickinson, Thomas Jefferson, Hellen Keller and Henry David Thoreau.

"There is a brilliant child locked inside every student," reads one of the 30 inspiring quotations found in the Quad. "He who enters a university walks on Hallowed Ground", by James Bryant Conant, is another inspiring quotation that serves as a reminder to students of just how lucky they are to be here at MTSU. These 30 notable sayings were carefully chosen by the university to be an inspiration to students and to encourage them to finish school.

A plaque honoring Dr. James M. Buchanan was placed in the Quadrangle by university officials. Buchanan was awarded the Nobel Memorial Prize for Economic Sciences in 1986, making him MTSU's sole Nobel Prize winner. In 1997, The Buchanan Scholarship was also established at MTSU in his honor.

The Quadrangle took about four years to plan and completely construct. Dow Smith was the contractor and the architect was Thomas Miller Partners/Ross Fowler. The four main purposes for the Quad area are to serve the entire campus, to be functional, to be beautiful and to be inspiring. These purposes seem to be well-served as students really love the customized landscaping and the peacefulness of the new Quadrangle area.

The official ribbon-cutting ceremony was held April 18, 2002, and was followed by a campus picnic. President Sidney A. McPhee suggested to those gathered for the events, "relax, rejuvenate, study, nap, picnic and enjoy a beautiful spring day in the new Quadrangle area." All of the day's events were part of the MTSU Inaugural Celebration.

Since the Quadrangle's opening last spring, it is quickly becoming known as the "new heart of campus." Many students' schedules bring them to the area everyday. Some are in the area to attend class or go to Walker Library while others are in the area just to study, picnic, nap and relax in the midst of the beautiful landscaping and peaceful atmosphere the Quad has to offer. Amanda Shearon, an interior design major, says, "Even though I don't get to spend much relaxing time at the Quadrangle, I love the newness of the designs and landscaping, and I like the peacefulness of the area, especially in the afternoon."

The art of film was once taught at Middle Tennessee State University, but like silent pictures and film noir, the days of the old disciplines are gone. Yet the film students themselves have endured. So how is it that MTSU has film students when the school doesn't even offer a film degree?

The answer is digital film.

MTSU has been riding the wave of digital media since it first started being used in television, and if some don't think digital technology has bridged the gap between video and film, then they probably haven't seen *Star Wars: Attack of the Clones*, which was filmed entirely on digital videotape.

Film students everywhere have turned to digital film as an inexpensive way to express and hone their visual craft. And with high-speed, high-storage capacity computers and digital camcorders, anyone can make a movie. Professor Michael Johnson, who teaches an Electronic Movie-Making class in the College of Mass Communications, concurrs: "With the Internet and DVDs that offer director commentary and other behind-the-scenes information, people can teach themselves to make movies."

So with all this technology, does it even pay to go to college? MTSU graduate Brad Van Demark thinks so. "It's all about the people you meet and the connections one makes," he says. Van Demark owns Blue Sky Film Works, a company he started with other students he met while attending the university.

Under Blue Sky Film Works, he has directed various independent short films. "It's hard to find good people [to work with], but you eventually will if you're highly motivated," Van Demark says. "You'll bump into each other because you're all headed in the same direction."

It's this kind of camaraderie that best represents student filmmakers. If one makes it to the big-time, they all do. Maybe it's because it increases their chances of making a break into the business if they stick together, but more than likely it's due to the forging experience of making films. Working on low-budget movies forces these students to think with more than a generous amount of ingenuity, which usually results in some interesting off-camera moments.

Ryan Bane, a TV production major at MTSU, recalls one particular event while producing a project with friends: "The director, who was also one of our actors, had this one scene where he walks into a room after being blown up. To give his head a 'blasted' look, we dumped all kinds of hair gel and hair spray to make all his hair stick backwards … then we taped a lit cigarette to the other side of his head to have wisps of smoke coming off him. Of course, the hair stuff was flammable, but we were ready with a fire extinguisher … unfortunately, we also had a prop extinguisher that didn't work and it took us a moment to figure out which was which … He actually lost more hair trying to remove the gel."

Director of Photography David Lewis focuses the camera on a slate held by Daryl Burgess. **photo provided**

Casual disregard of health for the sake of the film is not uncommon, neither is the need for one person to fill multiple roles. Writers, producers, directors, actors, cinematographers and sound technicians are more often than not the same person. That or a single job is divided among several people.

Sometimes work has to be done that no one knows how to do. "I had to play an old man once," Bane says, "and no one knew how to [do the makeup]. I spent an entire evening in a chair while someone smeared makeup and rubber latex all over my face trying to figure out how to make me look old."

Most students prefer this idea of doing everything themselves, though. They like the creative control of their own work, which they will undoubtedly lose once they start their careers in the entertainment industry. Bane openly admits, "I'm something of a control freak, but in a good kind of way … my way."

Van Demark, on the other hand, says he's not a control freak, "just a perfectionist." Still, this doesn't seem to hinder their ability to work with others.

All the time and effort put into a film would be in vain, of course, if MTSU didn't offer some venue to showcase these movies. One such outlet is the film festival held every spring at the Keathley University Center Theater.

The most appealing aspect of the festival is its openness. "The only requirement to submit something is you

Student Films

by Trey Simmons

must be a student at MTSU," says Brad Keaton, member of the student film committee.

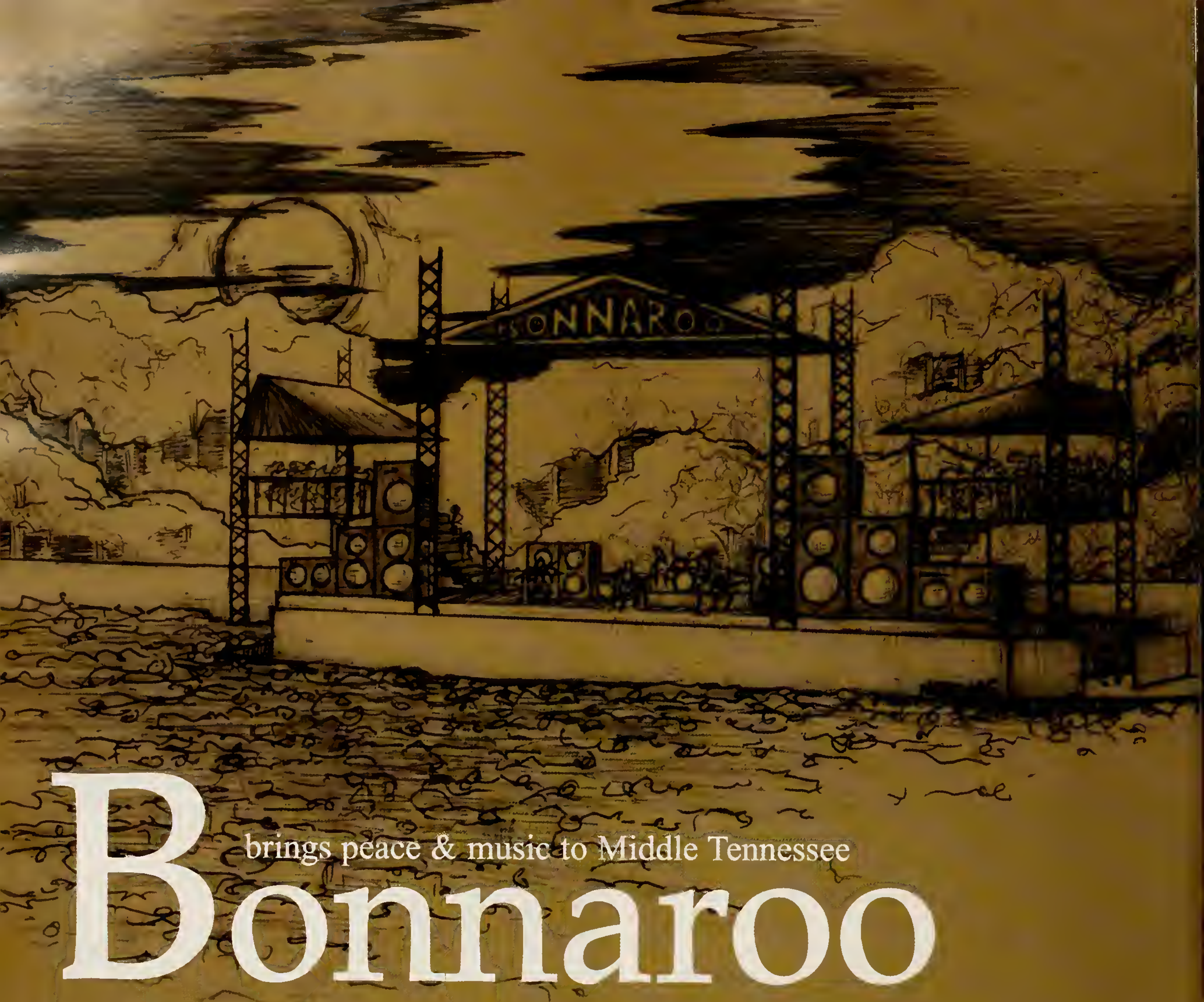
Among other duties, the committee judges the festival submissions and awards prizes. "We mostly look at the story when judging," says Keaton. "The camera work might not be great, but if the story is entertaining, we make an exception." This subjective look at films can be beneficial to young moviemakers who might lack experience but still want to compete with better-looking entries. It gives them a chance to screen their ideas to a large audience and learn from their mistakes.

Not all student films fall into the ultra-low budget category. Some are still shot on real film. But that doesn't automatically mean they're good. Professor Johnson likens student films to "being in a bad flea market. There's some good stuff out there; you just really have to look."

So does MTSU ever plan to accommodate students and their digital films with a new film department? "Not anytime soon," says Johnson. "It would take a lot of money and restructuring in the Mass Comm. department before it could happen." It's not that he's opposed to the idea, though. He adds,"In a perfect world there would be an Entertainment Production major that allows emphasis in whatever specific field interests the student."

Whether or not MTSU finds this perfect world, students and their films already have their pure, unrestricted creativity, which as Johnson says, "is the real beauty of it all."

Co-Producer John Boyd reads over the script of the film while Megan Westbrook adjusts the head of the mic to redirect it to cut down on unwanted noise. **photo provided**



Bonnaroo

brings peace & music to Middle Tennessee

June 21-23 marked a landmark event not only for Middle Tennessee, but for the entire nation as well. In the town of Manchester, a mere thirty miles from Murfreesboro, A.C. Entertainment and Superfly Productions produced the "jam band Mecca" of the summer, Bonnaroo.

Considering what happened at Woodstock III, no one knew what Bonnaroo had in store. Luckily, there was nothing to worry about … with the exception of kind music, kind vibes, and kind people.

Located on a 500-acre private farm, Bonnaroo delivered three days of peace and music for 80,000 fans. Headlining the extravaganza were Widespread Panic, Trey Anastasio (Phish), Phil Lesh and friends, featuring very special guest, Bob Weir (Grateful Dead), and dozens of other grass roots musical acts.

With Bonnaroo being *the* event for festivals this summer, music lovers traveled to Middle Tennessee from all across the nation. Fortunately for M.T.S.U. students, this event was practically local. However, despite the fact that Manchester is only a thirty-mile drive from Murfreesboro, for some people it took as much as twelve hours on Interstate 24 to reach the site.

Sophomore Jason Yeary recalls, "The fun began on the interstate. Even though it took us five hours to go one mile, we were totally amused… so was everyone else. People were just making the best of the traffic situation… playing frisbee in the grass by the roads, walking around and talking to people in their cars, and doing whatever else. It was nuts, but a very solid, good time."

Among the few complaints heard at Bonnaroo were remarks about the smoldering heat (though most Southerners are used to this inferno called summer by now) and the dust in the air around the campsites. Dirt roads disrupted by traffic caused this minor inconvenience; however, somebody at Bonnaroo took good care of the community and brought in to spray down the roads every night while (literally) happy campers nested in their tents.

Left: Fans attended Bonnaroo for the opportunity to see the biggest collection of Jam Bands ever assembled. Others wanted to go to the festival to be apart of history.

Bottom Right: "Dude!, it's that guy from phish!" Trey Anastasio jams out with his new band.

Bottom Left: "You get to go out there and just jam," bassist Les Claypool told USA Today, who fronted his own band, organized an unrehearsed jam session, and sat in with Stanton Moore, Robert Mercurio and Jeff Raines of Galactic.

Attesting to the event's success, Bonnaroo received an astounding amount of positive press, both locally and nationally.

Freshman Whitney Lenox reinforces these positive sentiments: "The whole time I was there I felt very, very safe and at ease. Ironically, it was a very relaxing weekend."

Who could have fathomed that this festival that was independently produced and barely promoted could have this effect? As it turns out, though, whatever Bonnaroo lacked in promotion, it made up in attendance. In fact, Manchester's Chamber of Commerce reports that, for two days, Bonnaroo was Tennessee's sixth-largest city.

If you missed Bonnaroo (Creole slang for "good time"), don't worry… the producers of Bonnaroo are already getting the line up ready for next year.

photos and story
by Lauren Grisham
sketch by Ryan Noreikas

on the road Again MTSU

story and photos by Amy Taylor

It was Friday, Aug. 30 at 4 p.m.: two charter buses left the Middle Tennessee Livestock Center parking lot headed for Birmingham, Ala. The four-hour drive to Birmingham, a trip filled with MTSU football statistics, berating the rival team and sleeping fans, served as the beginning of what looked to be a prodigious season.

A quick pit stop two hours into the trip insured our arrival in the heart of Birmingham by eight o'clock that evening. By the end of the second en-route movie, we were safely parked outside of our hotel. We then were warned of the Birmingham nightlife and were given our departure time for the next morning.

Unpacking our things in our hotel rooms, we made plans for dinner and the exploration of the Birmingham nightlife. Many found dinner, came back and went straight to bed while the night owls mingled and partied a bit (all were in by 2 or 3 a.m.).

The morning hours found fans in various states of activity. Most were awake by seven, adorning themselves in blue face paint, funny socks and pompons. Many fans went to find breakfast, searching in the same location that, just the night before, had been filled with loud music, fast cars and motorcycles and the hustle and bustle of college students.

After replenishing their supplies of camera film and buying rain ponchos, Blue Raider fans boarded the buses at 9:30. Their destination: the ominous Legion Field.

An hour later and the fifth time through the Raider fight song, the Rowdy Raiders making sure all the fans knew the words, we arrived at the site of the big game. There we were told that cameras are not allowed inside the stadium and were warned that purses and other articles might be searched. Many fans feared the unfamiliarity of the area and heeded this warning.

Leaving the buses for a brief pavilion-covered pep rally, Blue Raider fans were met with the loud and obnoxious objections of Crimson Tide fans. After exciting the blue and white spirit in the Raider supporters, the MTSU cheerleaders led us to the entrance of Legion Field. We were soon to find that our seats in section twenty of the stadium would only provide for a small blue wave amidst a sea of crimson.

Shouting insults to unfair referees and cheering "I'm proud to be from Middle Tennessee," MTSU fans, including alumni, professors, staff and students, all watched the game with anticipation and exasperation, hoping that our mere end zone of blue would cause an upset that would part the Alabama red sea.

In the last two quarters, the Blue Raiders seemed to come alive on the field with more determination than ever. MTSU scored once, then again, and then again. The road trip now seemed more worthwhile as Raider fans noticed the sudden hush that had fallen across the Crimson fans.

Despite having voices already strained from a full half of cheering, the blue fans shouted with more intensity; the roar from the small blue wave now made the red-clad fans inaudible. Spectators watched the roll of the tide slow as injured players in crimson uniforms were escorted off the field. The blue lightening had struck!

The game ended for our Blue Raiders after Alabama made a late-game interception, thwarting a crucial MTSU offensive drive. The Raiders did not leave the field in total defeat, though. Only six points short of winning, our team had merely lost a game, but they had won respect and added to an honorable reputation.

After we had cheered the last player off the field, Blue Raider fans and cheerleaders left the stadium. In parting with the Bama fans, they had this to say: "We didn't know your team had it in them to play that hard, but we'll play you any day, as long as we don't have to hear 'Rocky Top.'"

Finally, Middle Tennessee fans boarded the buses hoarse, sunburned and proud of their team! Joking about the previous night's experience with the Birmingham panhandlers and the inhospitable manners of the rival fans, Raider fanatics were now curious of what surprises the next week's game against the Vols would hold.

Starving from a missed lunch because of our dedication to not missing one second of the shock Middle Tennessee had given Alabama, we finally had dinner two hours later in Cullman, Ala. Here, the river of Blue Raider fans flooded the dining rooms of Cracker Barrel and Waffle House, the students finding solace as they devoured their much-deserved comfort foods.

After dinner, we boarded the buses for one last time, riding off into the sunset, proud of our Blue Raiders.

Opposite page, top: Two students ride through downtown Birmingham on the way to the game.
Opposite page, bottom: The author recovers from a sunburn during the ride home.
Left: Students mingle before the game at the pep rally outside the stadium.
Right: An MTSU couple is ready for the big game against Alabama.

September 11

ONE YEAR LATER

by Courtney Huckabay

The candles glowed like a thousand stars shining from the ground. The students and members of the community holding the candles bowed their heads and formed a silent union, barely touching each other in the complete circle. Strong, yet vulnerable, they gathered to remember all the victims, the heroes and the ordinary people who risked their lives and lost their lives one year ago.

The 2,000 candles were just a small showing of respect for those involved in the terrorist attacks that occurred Sept. 11, 2001. The display of emotion and gratitude, however, was huge, pouring from the hearts of students standing on The Knoll in complete silence at 9:11 p.m. that Wednesday night.

The candlelight memorial began at 8:45 p.m., honoring the local emergency agencies. Members and officers of the MTSU Department of Public Safety, the Murfreesboro Police Department, the Murfreesboro Fire Department, the Rutherford County Emergency Management Agency and the Rutherford County Emergency Medical Services were all in attendance and sharing their pride and condolences.

The Student Government Association and several Greek Life volunteers quietly passed out the candles they provided and let everyone there have a time of peace and reflection.

But candles weren't the only way the day was memorialized. When Associate Vice President of Student Support Services David Hays asked John Dickerson, dean of Student Life, to organize something for the anniversary, Dickerson's thoughts turned to music.

That's where the School of Music's Coordinator, Tim Musselman, came in. He planned a concert for the community at noon in the Wright Music Hall, commemorating the tragic events of September 11. Several professors played flutes, oboes and violins and sang songs, dedicating their talents to the memory of those who lost their lives that horrific day. Violin professor Stephan Petrescu asked Musselman to create a PowerPoint presentation with images from Sept. 11 to which he could then play.

"We had a very good turnout," Musselman said. "It was during the day, and a lot of MTSU people were there. I saw several members of the community sitting in the audience and a group from Adam's Place came. I think people were especially moved by the PowerPoint presentation along with Stephan's violin piece. It was very stirring and emotional."

Above: During a moment of silence, candles flickered across the KUC Knoll as hundreds gathered to remember the events of September 11th and honor the victims.

Left: Students showed support for the United States in various ways throughout the day of remembrance. Many students wore the traditional "I Love New York" shirts or wore shirts that depicted the American flag.

President McPhee Inauguration

McPhee presents himself to the crowd, wearing the presidentia medallion after taking the pledge of office.

Speaking to more than 3,000 students, faculty, staff, community leaders, family, and friends, Sidney A. McPhee quoted poet William Butler Yeats in a ceremony celebrating his inauguration as the tenth president of Middle Tennessee State University: "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." These words reflect what many look to as a good indicator of what is to come from McPhee's presidency here at MTSU.

Though he had been serving as university president since August 2001, McPhee was not officially inaugurated until Friday, April 19, 2002. Among those honoring McPhee were Governor Don Sundquist and United States Representative Bart Gordon ('71).

The inauguration celebration, "Celebrating Excellence through Partnerships," officially began with the ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the new quadrangle located in front of the Walker Library on Thursday. The ceremony was followed by a picnic for the entire university community.

Thursday evening featured a dance performance sponsored by the Speech and Theatre Department. McPhee wanted the inauguration to give everyone an idea of what our university environment was like. He explained, "I was so impressed with the talents and abilities of these students. I wanted the inauguration to showcase some of the extraordinary things that happen on campus regularly, and I think it did just that."

Friday afternoon, actress, lecturer, activist and humanitarian Cicely Tyson lectured and read some poetry and excerpts from some of her familiar roles. She expanded on the importance of creating and exploring new ways "to be more and do more for our young people." She encouraged listeners "to vote in greater numbers, speak with louder voices, write with sharper pens and act with more conviction."

The ceremony in the Murphy Center featured singer Bebe Winans who performed her rendition of Donnie McClurkin's "Stand."

Musical entertainment was also provided by the Wind Band Ensemble, conducted by Richard Murphy, which performed selections including "Celebration of a New Era," written by Terry Jolley. Jolley, former associate director of bands, included three themes borrowed from the MTSU Alma Mater. Jolley explains, "I chose the alma mater as the basis for this piece as a way to show the difference MTSU has made in my life, with hope that other alumni continue to support and celebrate this great university as MTSU moves into a new era of leadership."

June Hall, professor of foreign languages and literature, composed a poem in honor of the occasion. Hall's poem, entitled "The Journey," was read by McPhee's brother Hexin.

Governor Don Sundquist, the first of fourteen speakers, praised McPhee's quest to seek national recognition for MTSU. "I applaud him! What's good for MTSU is good for Tennessee," Sundquist exclaims.

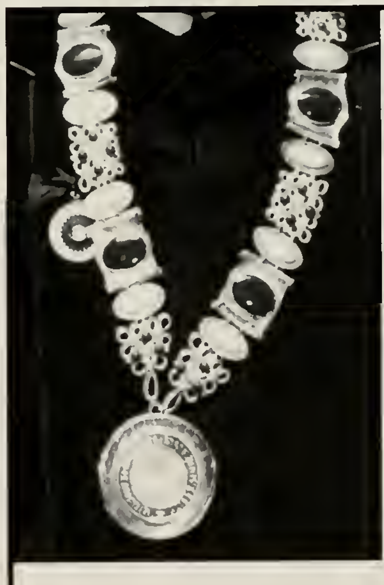
Others bringing good tiding to McPhee were R. Jack Fishman, Tennessee Board of Regents; John Hood ('54,'74), House of Representatives member; Richard Reeves, Murfreesboro mayor; Nancy Allen ('78), Rutherford County executive; Professor Zhang Wenli, China Agricultural University; John Marshall, Student Government president; and Lorraine Singer ('70, '71, '75), National Alumni Association president-elect.

Professor Zhang Wenli of the China Agricultural University presents McPhee with a porcelain dragon.

The annual Golden Raider reunion concluded the inauguration week Saturday, mixing the familiar with the new and displaying MTSU's constant blending of progress and tradition.

by Lauren W. Grisham photos Matthew H. Starling

The Chain of Office



The Chain of Office worn by the prsident is made of solid sterling silver. The lapis lazuli gems, mounted on scroll shapes, represent the colleges within the university. The knotted compontents depict the interdependence of knowledge and the various academic programs of MTSU. The sterling and lapix lazuli represent the university colors of blue and white. The Great Seal of the State Tennessee embellishes the medallion suspended from the chain representing the university as part of the Tennessee Board of Regents system. The unique emblems of authority were designed and crafted by Professor Klaus Kallenberger of the Art Department. Kallenberger retired summer of 2002, ending the jewelry-making program within the Art Department.

from Adversity to Triumph

US Skeleton Gold Medalist, Jim Shea Jr. tells his story at MTSU

by Robert Evans

Above, left: Shea greeted fans after his speech, allowing them a photo op with his gold medal.
photo Rob Evans

Left: Shea spoke about the difficulties in life, not just about the tragedy of his grandfather's death.
photo Rob Evans

Opposite page: Shea celebrates his gold medal run, holding his grandfather's picture high.
photo provided

Jim Shea Jr. stood at the top of the bobsled run, looking down its twisting, turning, 4,380 foot track. A light snow was falling in the picturesque Pocono Mountains outside Salt Lake City. But instead of hearing the soft crackling sound that snowflakes make when they touch the ground, Shea was hearing the muffled roar of thousands of fans watching him make Olympic history.

Shea spoke about his struggles – from being learning disabled to being practically homeless, traveling Europe, participating in a sport largely unrecognized by anyone outside it– and explained the reasons for his success during a brief visit to Middle Tennessee State University.

"My life, it's sort of like a journey," summed up Shea.

Indeed his life has been like a journey. His life had all signs pointing to an auspicious beginning down the same road that his father and grandfather had taken. His grandfather Jack won gold medals in speedskating in 1932 and his father Jim Shea, Sr. competed in Nordic skiing in 1964.

Unfortunately, the younger Shea's life would be slowed by a learning disability. When he was younger, Shea would get up and go to school with his friends, but once he got there, his friends would go one way, and he would go another.

"One major thing that really kept me going, that kept my chin up, that allowed me to have really strong friendships, was sports: hockey, lacrosse, and soccer," Shea said.

Once out of high school there was really no place for Shea to go, so he took up the carefree lifestyle of an early 20-something, hanging out with friends, drinking, playing hockey

and working odd jobs to pay the rent. But one day, Shea decided that he wasn't happy and it was time for a change.

Living in Lake Placid, N.Y. at the time, he was able to go to the Olympic Training Center and get inside a bobsled for a test run.

"The first time in a bobsled...I remember being scared out of my mind, thinking this was the worst mistake of my life," recalls Shea. "[When] I got to the bottom of the track...the first thing out of my mouth was, 'How do we get back to the top? I have to do this again.' It was absolutely amazing."

Soon Shea was hooked on the bobsled. He was eating, sleeping and breathing the sport.

But for whatever reason, he wasn't progressing. He moved onto the skeleton, an obscure sport, relatively unknown outside of Europe, and jumped in without hesitation. He loved it.

So Shea packed it all up, sold his Jeep to make a little money and went to Europe to travel the World Cup Circuit. A little money is what he had. He bummed rides to follow the circuit with other teams; he slept in the sheds where the sleds were kept and paid most of his expenses with a Visa card. Along the way, he was learning some important life lessons and remembered those that were taught to him. He credits these as the reasons of his success.

"The first reason for success is simply to be nice," Shea explained. "It's amazing how many people, whether in business or sports or competition, it goes right out the window for so many people." Traveling to Europe without any place to live or stay and not knowing where he was going to sleep next is not what many would call the best path to succes. Shea, however, didn't see it quite that way.

"As my grandfather used to say, 'Opportunities come by all the time, it's just a matter of jumping on the train as they come by.'"

Shea jumped on a big opportunity and ended up in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, pursuing Olympic gold.

Founders' Day

The Founding of Middle Tennessee State University

Founded on September 11, 1911, MTSU is the oldest and largest public university in the Tennessee Board of Regents System. Located 30 miles southeast of Nashville, the campus is on approximately 500 acres in the geographic center of the state, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The land chosen for the original university campus was owned jointly by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Harrison and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Black, and consisted of 100 acres adjacent to North Tennessee Boulevard. Eighty acres were donated to the state, and the State Board of Education purchased an adjacent 20 acres.

The 91st birthday of MTSU, the latest celebration of what is known as Founders' Day, commemorated the struggle involved in the founding of this university, as well as the struggle involved in the founding of the campus-based June Anderson Women's Center.

MTSU President Sidney McPhee kicked off the 2002 Founders' Day Celebration after a breakfast at the Alumni Center with a few remarks about Founders' Day and its importance. The festivities included honoring the families of Joe Black and Tom Harrison — the two men who donated the original land for MTSU — eating lunch with keynote speaker Thelma Harper and celebrating the 25th anniversary of the June Anderson Women's Center.

McPhee said that, although MTSU was founded Sept. 11, 1911, the celebration was being held a week earlier because of terrorist attacks of 2001.

"There was quite a battle between Murfreesboro and Cookeville to become the location of the mid-state normal school," McPhee noted. "Through the efforts of a committee of prominent Murfreesboro citizens, a site was chosen on property owned by Tom Harrison and Joe Morton Black.

Harrison and Black donated 80 acres of prime farmland and sold another 20 acres to the state. "From four original buildings and 100 acres," McPhee said, "we now have 109 permanent buildings on 466 acres."

"Last year we had a big picnic that was more student-centered for the 90th anniversary, which we had been asked to do," said Susan Barnes, assistant vice president of development and university relations who organized the morning event. "This year, we thought it would be a really good time to honor the families, a lot of whom are still here in Murfreesboro."

Barnes said that about 30 family members were present, and all were very appreciative that their families' contributions to the university were finally recognized. "Overall, we had about 150 to 200 people present at the ceremony," she said.

Present during the 2002 Founders' Day event was the Harrison family, including Price Harrison, Jr., who recalled the late Tom Harrison. "He remembered Tom Harrison and put a face on a historical name," Barnes said.

"The Joe Black family was a little bit different. We could not find any direct descendants. There were a lot who are descended from Eugene Black here in town, who was a brother of Joe."

Barnes said that, although no one from Black's immediate family could be located, Bubba Woodfin, great-grandnephew of Joe Black, was on hand during the event to comment about his great-granduncle.

Founders' Day also commemorated the founding of the June Anderson Women's Center. "This was the 25th anniversary of the [center]," says Dr. Candace Rosovsky, former director of the JAWC. "We were invited to participate in this year's Founders' Day because it was a milestone for us." Rosovsky planned the second half of the day, which honored the founders of the women's center. She said she tried to locate the 24 women, and in some cases their families, to invite them to come and be honored for their work.

"It was really a full day," Barnes remarked. "I think it has been the most fun I've had around here in a long time because I enjoyed getting to meet the families so much."

by Jonathan Carman

Opposite page, top: President Sidney McPhee and a descendant of one of the founding families unveil the new marker.

Opposite page, bottom: Price Harrison, founding family descendant and former faculty member, gives a speech at the Sept. 4 ceremony.

Middle Tennessee State Teachers College
1925-1942

Right: Lillian Guy Read, a descendant of both the Harrison and Black families, who donated the land, studies a bulletin board about the university's history.

Fiddler on the Roof

Students & Professors form true to life cast

by Jessy Yancey

photos Matthew H. Sterling

Left: Tevye, played by Crosby Hunt
Right: Theater-tech majors create the dramatic lighting effects.

"Fiddler on the Roof is not your typical happy musical," reveals Deborah Anderson, a theater professor of twenty-one years.

Anderson co-starred as Tevye's wife Golde in the play, which opened September 26, 2002. The cast and crew gave eight performances, including one for Parents Weekend. Such classic songs as "Tradition," "Do You Love Me?" and "If I Were A Rich Man" were just a few of the many songs performed during the show.

"Life without tradition is as shaky as a fiddler on the roof," declares Tevye, played by Crosby Hunt, at the beginning of the musical.

The book by Joseph Stein is based on tales by the Yiddish author Sholem Aleichem. It tells the comical yet heartbreaking story of Tevye, a Jewish milkman in pre-revolutionary Russia, while he strives to keep everything the same as he faces war. It is this battle to protect his beloved Jewish traditions and maintain the

simplicities of his way of life that bewilders Tevye as he confronts change and the daunting thought of marrying off his strong-minded daughters.

As he marries off his daughters, Tevye comes to see that the traditions he cares so much for can evolve with the times rather than remaining the same. However, even the enlightened Tevye decides that he must draw the line somewhere when his third daughter announces whom she wants to marry.

Christina Mayhan, a freshman from Murfreesboro, played Bielke, Tevye's youngest daughter. "They told me I should try out because I look so young," she answers when asked why she wanted to be in the musical. "I've always loved drama," she says, even though her major is advertising. "Also, it helped me meet a lot of people."

Some of the actors have been performing longer than others. Junior Shannon DeVido, who played Yente the matchmaker, says she has been doing theater forever. "I've done 40-50 shows," she remembers, "way too many too count."

"Pretty much all my life I have loved acting," says sophomore Erin Dudley. A theater major, she says that, usually, a lot of tension exists between actors, but in this particular cast, everyone has gotten along very well.

The behind-the-scenes workers can't be left out. Lacee Goodman, a freshman from Murfreesboro majoring in theater tech, has been working in lighting for almost five years. "Lighting is the key, but the key doesn't always work," she explains.

Niki Wyont, a theater tech major from Madison, was able to fulfill some of the lab hours for one of her classes by becoming a makeup assistant. "I'm just doing whatever anyone needs me to do," she says with a smile on her face.

This is one of the first times in which one of the theater department's plays, which are usually performed by students, has had age-appropriate casting. Anderson feels that she has experienced a lot during this production. "It has really changed my ideas about acting now," she relates. "I really feel like I'm one of [the students] now."

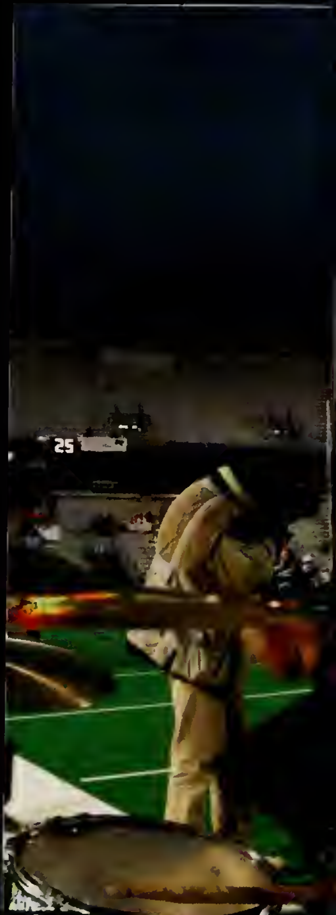
Above: The scene in the Inn, cast members Dr. Hunt, Michael Priest, Ashley Heaston, Lindsey Lane, Jon Swader, Tracy Thorne, Erin Dudley, Hannah Smith, Dustin Evans, Amber Wakefield, Heidi Rau, Sarah Cozort and Amber Curry.

Bottom: Chris Roberts (Fyedka) sings the song "To Life" as Christopher Ford (Sasha) dances behind him.

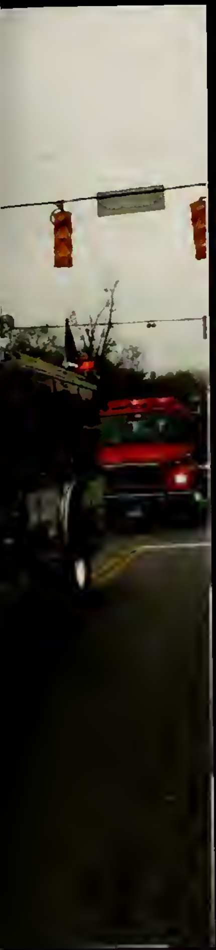
Left: The play was accompanied by a live orchestra instead of recorded music.

MURFREESBORO FI

BLUE RAIDERS
MT



HOMECOMING



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Members of student organizations, fraternities and sororities gathered in mid-November to march the traditional Homecoming Parade route starting at the square and ending at Floyd Stadium. Students stood along the streets, along with community members, to cheer on the Blue Raiders before the big game.

[illegible]

HOME

During the week of November 4, MTSU was buzzing with homecoming fever. As the Blue Raiders prepared to face off against the University of Louisiana-Monroe Indians that Saturday, MTSU fans on and off campus decorated and displayed many signs of Blue Raider spirit.

Sororities, fraternities and other university clubs and organizations participated in several events during homecoming week, ranging from kickball and basketball competitions to the chili cook-off, fight song and, of course, the float competition.

"We planned the float for about a month and worked on it every night for two weeks, and the parade didn't even last an hour," says Amy Davis of Alpha Omicron Pi. Her sorority started practicing for the fight song competition three weeks in advance. "Fight song was my favorite part," Jones recalls. "It was a lot of work but a lot of fun."

There was some controversy during the parade lineup. The fraternity Kappa Sigma, as well as its sister sorority Chi Omega, had to pull their float from the competition and the parade.

Alpha Delta Pi and Sigma Nu must have worked very hard and been very lucky. They won everything they entered except the Kickball Kick Off, which was won by Alpha Omicron Pi and Sigma Phi Epsilon, and the Banner Competition, which went to Alpha Chi Omega, Sigma Chi and Pi Kappa Phi. The crowning of the homecoming king and queen was another exciting event, with Michael Shirley and Jessica Heim winning these honors.

For the White Division, teams competing with 30-59 members, the African American Student Association won the Banner Competition. The NAACP won the Non-Float Competition while Corlew Hall Area Government won the Float Competition, making history as it was the first time a dorm has entered a float into MTSU's homecoming parade.

The Wesley Foundation came out on top for the Silver Division, teams competing with less than 30 members. They won both the Banner and the Non-Float Competitions.

Although the competitions leading up to the game were exciting, the game itself turned out to be an equally dramatic event. During the fist half, a fight between the two teams caused quite a commotion. "The ref made a bad call," recalls freshman Jenna Beffre, "and the teams just started going at it. Then the student section got involved, and I saw a guy right in front of me get arrested."

Despite the havoc, MTSU won fair and square over the University of Louisiana Monroe with a final score of 44-28. Standing together as a sea of blue and white cheering for the Blue Raiders, the fans in the stands offered their applause for what proved to be a great finale to the week's festivities.

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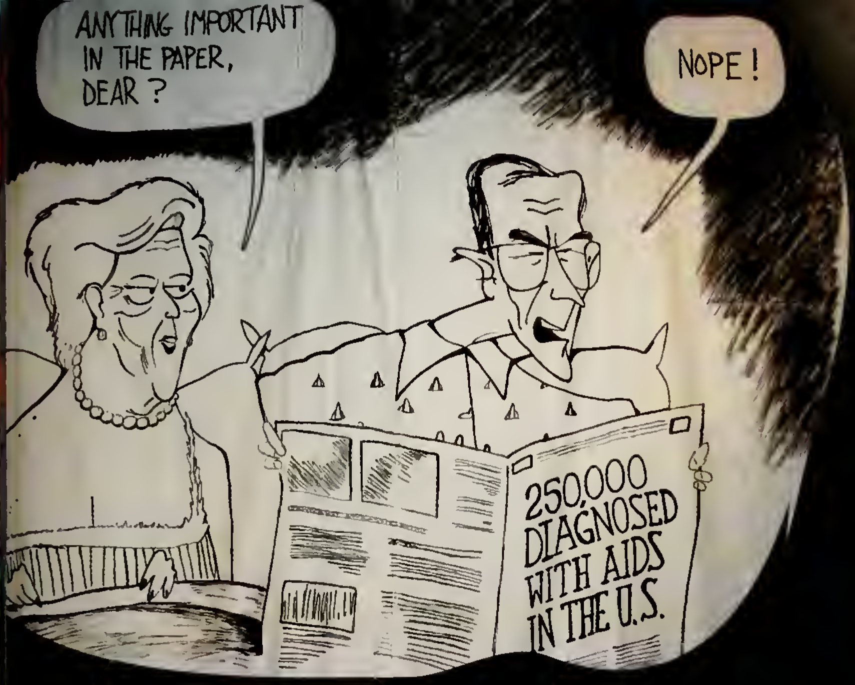
ANYTHING IMPORTANT IN THE PAPER, DEAR ?
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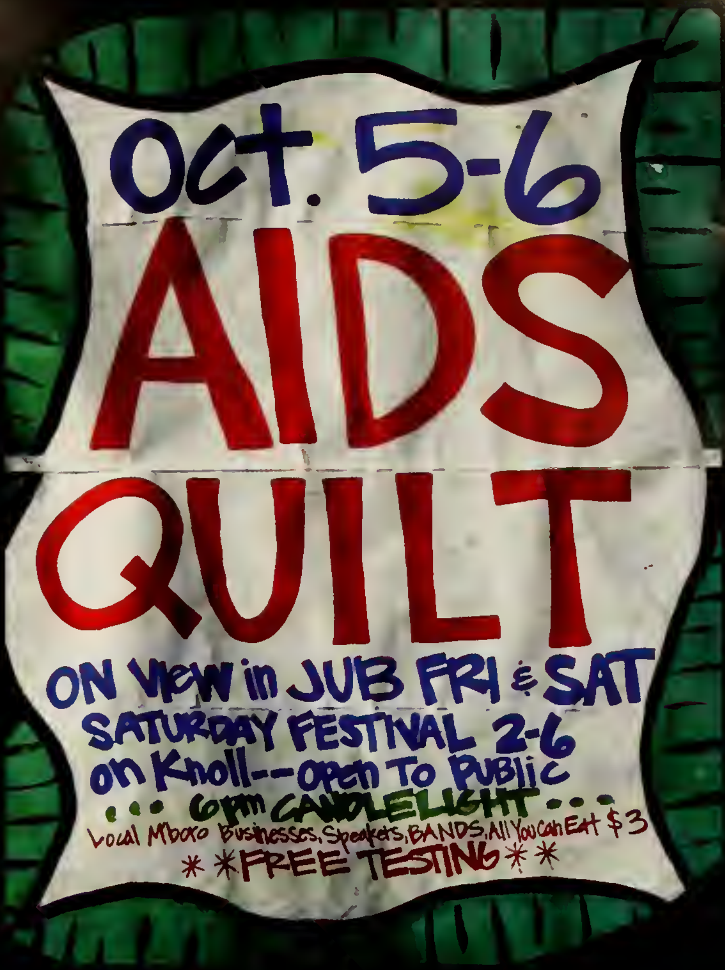
250,000 DIAGNOSED WITH AIDS IN THE U.S.



Aids Quilt

a memorial and reminder...

by Sarah Palmer

It began as a way to remember a good friend, Marvin Feldman, who died of AIDS, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. It went on to start a tradition that has grown to include over 44,000 people. And part of that tradition was brought to MTSU on October 5th and 6th.

This tradition is the AIDS quilt, which today has over 44,000 different panels that pay tribute to some of those who have lost their lives to AIDS.

This enormous quilt was started by a group of friends in San Francisco who wanted to find a way to remember Feldman and was originally a single quilt panel. However, as more and more people wanted to make quilts to remember their loved ones, the quilt grew so large that it could no longer be shown in its entirety. The last time the entire quilt was displayed was in 1996 in Washington D.C., where it reached all the way from the capitol building to the Lincoln Memorial.

The quilt shown at MTSU consisted of 90 panels and even included the original one for Marvin Feldman. It was brought to MTSU thanks to the Student Government Association, whose decision was greatly influenced by Vice President Amanda Newman. Newman had seen the quilt at her previous community college and thought that bringing the quilt to campus would be a good way for the S.G.A. to reach out to the rest of campus.

Since college age students are one of the groups most at risk of contracting the AIDS virus, "we wanted to show that [the S.G.A.] really cares about students," explains Newman, a junior political science and public relations major.

In order to raise the money to bring the quilt to campus, the S.G.A. organized an all-day festival. Teams from over 30 different organizations competed in relay races and other fun games. The day also featured free food, music by groups such as Eye 40 and Money Penny, speakers who were actually infected with AIDS and even free AIDS swab testing by Nashville Cares, a local AIDS awareness program.

While there was no entry fee for the teams to compete in the games, the organizations were encouraged to raise at least 500 dollars for the event. Not only did the S.G.A. raise enough money to cover the cost of bringing the quilt to campus, but they also raised enough to donate some back to the Nashville Cares Program. The donated money will help educate more people in the Middle Tennessee area about the AIDS virus.

The AIDS quilt was on display at the James Union Building for two days to allow students to see it. Looking back on the weekend as a whole, Newman claims enthusiastically, "It was a very successful event." There is even the possibility that the S.G.A. will make this an annual affair.

Newman explains, "We want it to be the first annual AIDS quilt event. We want to be able to look back and say, 'We've changed the life of someone this weekend.'"

photo Matthew H. Srarling

middlander

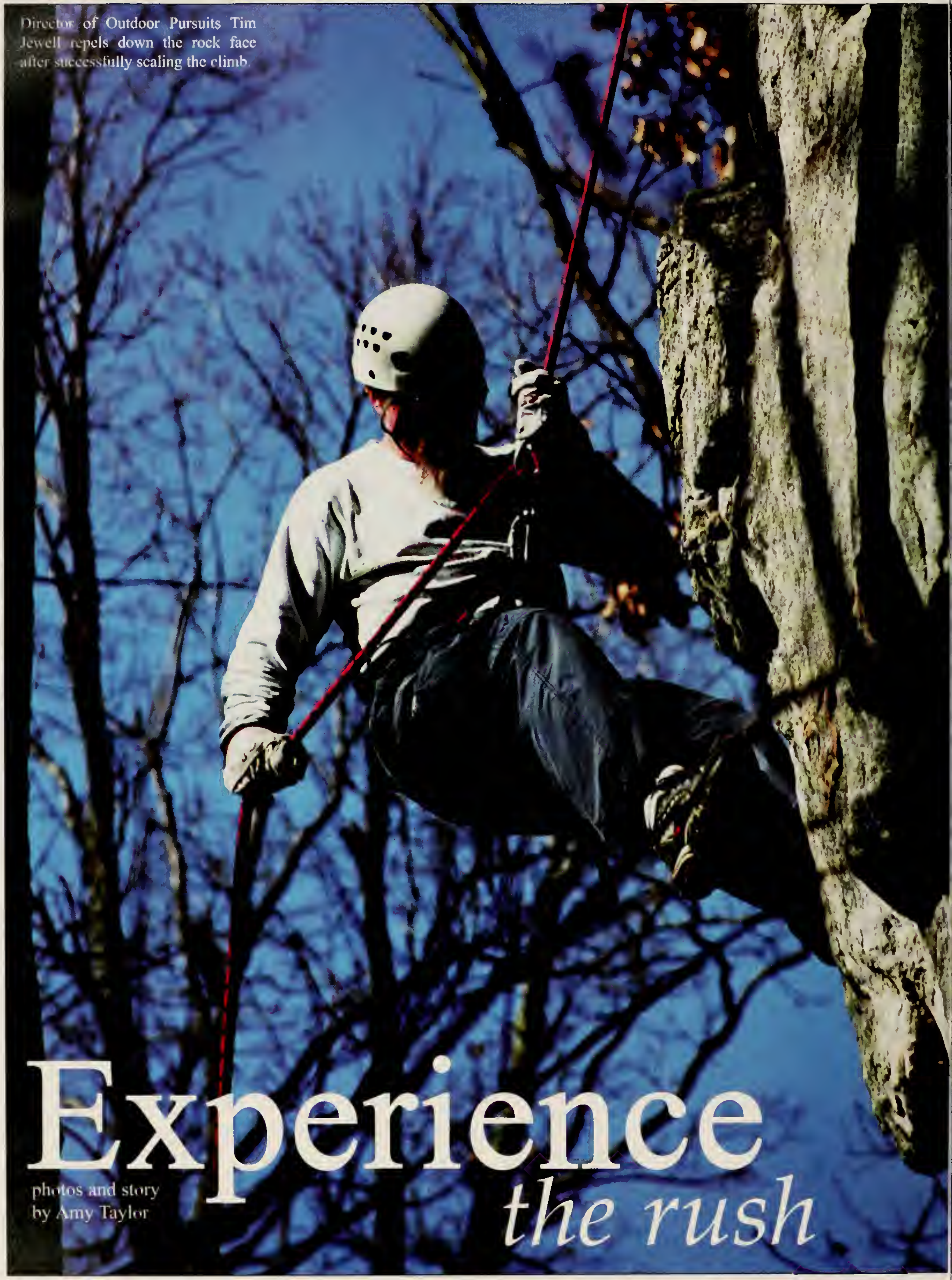
PICTURES
OF THE YEAR

photo Megan Allender

photo Matthew H. Starling

photo Matthew H. Starling

photo Amy Jones



Director of Outdoor Pursuits Tim Jewell repels down the rock face after successfully scaling the climb.

Experience
the rush

photos and story
by Amy Taylor

Only the most dedicated students would wake up at 6:00 on a November Saturday morning to spend two days with no running water, no heat, and no bathing. That's exactly what sixteen of MTSU's finest rock climbers and hikers — and a few inexperienced individuals — did to satisfy their hunger to dangle from fifty feet of rock with only a rope and a prayer. As perilous and adventurous as this may sound, this Outdoor Pursuits trip was safeguarded with the most intricate of safety precautions taken by supervisor Tim Jewell. Included with the adrenaline rush came the overwhelming feeling of independent accomplishment and the accolades of teamwork.

It was Nov. 23, 2002. Two Middle Tennessee State University vans carrying sixteen students, an intern, a graduate assistant and a supervisor arrived in the north Georgia city of Rocktown, a place known for attracting hikers and climbers to its vast boulders, incredible panoramic views and challenging cave explorations. Here, two groups were formed: one headed for the rocks to test their climbing skills, and the other headed for what would prove to be an arduous task of maneuvering a cave.

The climbers found a traverse that would challenge their abilities learned from the Rec Center's climbing wall. They were armed with chalk bags (to keep nervous hands dry and steady on sharp and often slick rocks), climbing shoes and other gear needed to anchor a rope. Hour upon hour was spent trying to conquer a boulder, enabling each climber to learn from the other, for rock climbing proves to be a vicarious task.

A small way down the road from the rock climbers stood the group ready to tour the confines of a muddy labyrinth. Inside the cave, Outdoor Pursuits came in contact with a system of ups and downs and ins and outs.

In order to dominate the cave, the amateur explorers had to climb upside down, crawl through a six-foot long pancake squeeze that was barely two feet in height, where cavers were mobile only by way of hands and stomach, and squeeze through worm holes (entrances named for their characteristic ascending and descending into the cave) that made one feel like the human Gumby. Finally, after three hours of meandering through the formation containing no natural light, bat dwellings and nature's art forms of stalactites and stalagmites, the cavers emerged from the cave into the faint light of dusk and headed to camp. The day had proved to be an experience that built camaraderie among complete strangers.

That night around the campfire, stories were told of previous outdoor adventures, the treachery that Mother Nature offers to those willing to take on her challenges and other life stories that brought the campers to find solace in outdoor recreation. Without everyday technology, it was amazing to realize how even simple stargazing offered entertainment.

After filling their bellies with campfire goodies, such as grilled cheese sandwiches, hamburgers, canned soups, jiffy pop popcorn and hot chocolate (as camping cookware is now notably convenient), the campers retired to their tents and found a warm rest inside their sleeping bags, a deserved respite from the day's journey.

The next day, the campers rose with the sun and prepared for a brief bouldering expedition. After loading the vans and heading back home, friendships were solidified with similar life stories, jokes and dreams. Thus, upon arriving home, one felt the accomplishment of the weekend.

A student begins their Outdoor Pursuits weekend journey with the intent of accomplishing the set goals, leaving no room for failure or backing down. And the companionship offered by those attending provides the needed boost of self-esteem, for with every endeavor made on the trip, one could never go without hearing "You can do it!","Great job!" and "Wow! I can't believe I did it!"

Zach Johnson scales a rock face in Rocktown, Ga. where the group spent two nights caving and rock climbing.

story by Lisa Rollins
photos by Amy Taylor

If one were to ask those in the know at other U.S. universities which mock-trial teams were among the country's best, it's likely MTSU would be mentioned at the top of their lists.

Locally, though, one of MTSU's best-kept secrets is its nationally-ranked mock trial and mediation teams, and Dr. John Vile, co-founder/coach for the 13-year old mock trial team and the still-new mediation team, is doing his best to change that fact.

Virtually since its inception, MTSU Mock Trial has made its presence felt in championship circles on the national level. The team won the American Mock Trial Association's (AMTA) "Best New Team" honors in its inaugural year, and for the past 11 years, it has consistently been among the Top 10 nationally.

"My guess is that there are no more than three or four schools other than us that have that record," observes Vile, regarding the championship streak the mock trial team has managed to maintain.

This year, MTSU Mock Trial was ranked eighth in the nation at the close of the competitive season—a not-too-shabby feat when one considers that 440 teams from 225-plus schools are in the running at the start of each contest year.

"I don't know of any other state-funded school that has a better record," says Vile. "All of the Ivy League schools are up there [in the national rankings for mock trial], but the MTSU team is always up there in the top tier. For a public institution, our team is one of the very best in the country."

In addition to its impressive team record—which is one that Vile says "only a handful" of other schools can match—MTSU Mock Trial has a unique boast that, thus far, is its alone.

In addition to naming top-10 teams at the Des Moines-based championship each year, the AMTA also bestows "Top 10 Witness" and "Top 10 Attorney" awards, and it is from this pool that competitors are chosen for the national championships "All-American Round" of competition.

"This year, we got both a 'Top 10 Attorney' and a 'Top 10 Witness,'" Vile remarks. "And this year marks the first time that we ever had a freshman get a top-10 award at nationals, which is quite impressive."

MTSU's Alisha Walker, a freshman pre-law major from McKenzie Tenn., garnered a "Top 10 Witness" award during the 2002 championship while graduating senior Douglas Sadler of Cordova, Tenn., earned a "Top 10

Mock Trial

Nationally ranked in the top 10 for the past decade

Left: A student in a classroom in the Business and Aerospace Building prepare's his notes before the beginning of a case. Being prepared mentally, as well as with case studies, was essential to presenting and winning a case.

Right: A lawyer finishes the mock case with his closing statements. Winning or losing a case could often depend on how well a side's final arguements were presented to the judges.

Below: Rutherford County Circuit Court Judge Don Ash listens as the lawyers begin to make their opening statements. Area lawyers and judges were brought in to help judge a tournament held on campus in November.

Attorney" prize.

Other members of this year's nationally ranked team at MTSU included graduating seniors Virginia Vile of Murfreesboro, the team's "All-American" captain and a pre-law major; James "Adrian" Shaffar, an aerospace major and Eads, Tenn., native; and Katie Williams, a pre-law major from Fayetteville, Tenn.; as well as Franklin native Matt Pauley, a senior philosophy major, and junior pre-law major Erin Bumbalough of Manchester.

In addition to MTSU's winning mock trial team, its mediation team, too, has begun to yield recognition nationally. Now in its second year of existence, MTSU Mock Mediation placed third at the championships this year.

"The national mediation tournament has been around only two years," Vile says of the contest, which also is sponsored by the AMTA. " During the first year, our mediation team won first-place in the nation, and this year we were third."

About 30-40 teams from throughout the country begin each mediation contest season, but only 18 advance to the Iowa-held national championships.

"Because mediation is a newer activity than mock trial, judging is not as refined as it is for mock trial," Vile notes. "But it's hard to complain either way when you finish in the nation's Top 10."

No matter what ranking MTSU's mock and mediation teams are assigned when all is said done, "There's no denying that we've got a great bunch of kids and they work real hard," he affirms. "You can't ask for more than that."

Channel 10

by Heather Hoyer

Students Get More Involved With the Campus TV Station

Above: Senior Justin Davis and junior Terra Grant discuss the daily news during a run-through of the script before the taping of a Channel 10 news show. The run-through was to ensure that there was no confusion over words or concepts that were to be discussed on the upcoming show.

For years, MTSU's Channel 10 has existed quietly. Deep in the heart of the Learning Resource Center (LRC), in a cave called Studio B, the station has benefited only those few students who have ventured into the world of student-run television.

Now, however, the student television station known as MTTV is gaining strength with new policies, successful programming and cooperation between faculty and staff.

"When I came [to MTSU] in 1986, I was assigned faculty advisorship of the channel. There was little or no programming provided by anyone," says Dr. Robert "Bob" Spires, former faculty adviser and current department chairman of Electronic Media Communications. After a few years of growing, MTTV is a fully functioning, student-run channel that provides job experience for more than 150 MTSU students.

Left: Journalism major India Stone focuses the camera on the desk on the Channel 10 news set. All of the filming was done at the desk. This made it extremely important for the camera to be focused at all times.
photos by Rebecca Pickering

Channel 10 is a public education government channel that is broadcasted to more than 45,000 homes in Rutherford County and the South Nashville area, says Terra Grant, the station's general manager. Because of this, MTTV follows all the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission and industry organizations.

Therefore, due to new policy, everyone who plans on working at the station now must read and sign the policy and procedures manual.

"This is their foundation," says Grant, regarding the station's student workers. "Before, [the policy and procedures guidelines] had not existed, and Channel 10 was chaotic. [Dr. Robert Spires, department chair for Electronic Media Communication, and Professor Bob Pondillo, Channel 10 adviser at the time] actually had to pull programming for a month in spring 2002 because it was just bad programming," she adds.

About 150-200 MTSU students work for the station. They are involved in every step in the process from writing the stories to anchoring the news. Students run the cameras. Students edit the scripts. Students even invent the shows. Cooking shows, sports shows, variety shows and movies are just a few of the ideas that have come from the creative minds of the college students at MTSU.

The Channel 10 staff encourages new approaches and new ideas for programming.

"Channel 10 gives students the opportunities," Grant says. "Anything they've got in their heads, we give that outlet." Anyone can bring an idea to the station.

As students move on in their academic studies, MTTV programs come and go. "Open Line with MTSU President Sidney McPhee," a show that started in the spring of 2002, returns to programming thanks to a successful opening season.

During the "Open Line" program, MTSU students call in and are put on the air during live broadcast to share their opinions and pose questions to President McPhee.

"Open Line" is one example of the interactive shows on Channel 10. Programs like this allow people outside the Channel 10 staff to become a part of the station. By calling in, students create the "Open Line."

Grant hopes to broaden the variety of programming and target smaller groups of people with new shows. She wants to let the community know that they can depend on Channel 10. "The only way to do that is through good quality programming," she notes.

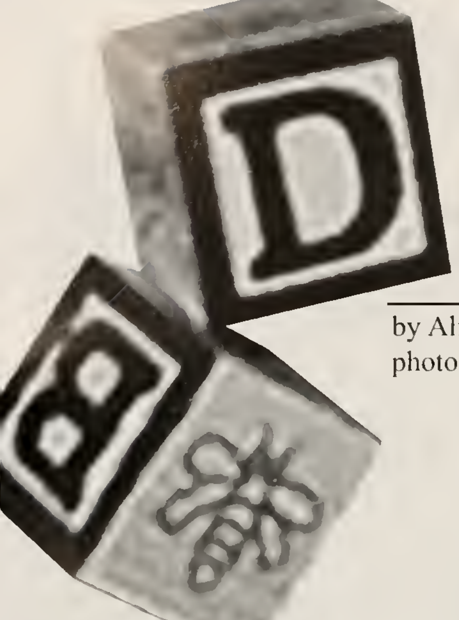
Grant explains that the only way to improve the programming is to improve the relationships between Channel 10 and the faculty. She adds that bonds between faculty and Channel 10 staff have been unsteady in the past, but both groups agree that they want to work together.

"These issues are almost always solved through more communication," says Spires. "If the faculty did not see any value in the channel, they would vote for it to be housed somewhere else or for it to become strictly a lab medium for use only with our classes."

Spires and Grant explain that the faculty supports the student-run station, and the students need the experience and advice of the faculty.

"We can't do it without the faculty," Grant says. "We can't be great without the people who know."

Grant's idea for the future of MTTV is clear. "I hope that within the next five to 10 years that broadcast students will come in and already know that they want to be a part of Channel 10. Even if it's dusting the floors, they will want to be a part of it."



MTSU Day Care Lab

by Alicia Bennett
photos by Matthew H. Starling

Encouraging Parents to Become Students

Middle Tennessee State University's daycare facility is located in the center of Womack Lane Apartments; this is convenient, since many families reside in the apartments. Opened in 1981, the center was created to encourage parents who wanted to become students to enroll at this university. The daycare is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the school week to provide care for children between the ages of three and five and is closed when classes are not in session. The facility is only licensed to hold twenty-four children at a time, so first priority is given to children of MTSU students. Children from the local community also can be allowed to enter if there are vacancies. In her sixteen years working at the center, Nancy James, its present director, has yet to see a place filled by a community child—a fact that underscores the necessity of such a facility.

Three-year-old Titus Williams sleeps as Anthony Wiggins crawls behind him after waking up from his nap. When the lights come on, the children begin to wake up and become active again.

Unlike most daycare centers, MTSU's enjoys a low employee turnover rate. Not only do the positions offer job satisfaction, as Ms. James remarked, but the university also offers daycare employees the same benefits it provides for its own faculty and staff, including annual leave and health insurance.

There are actually only three full-time employees; a flat parental fee covers their salaries. The rest of the employees are made up of MTSU students who are involved in a work-study program funded by financial aid.

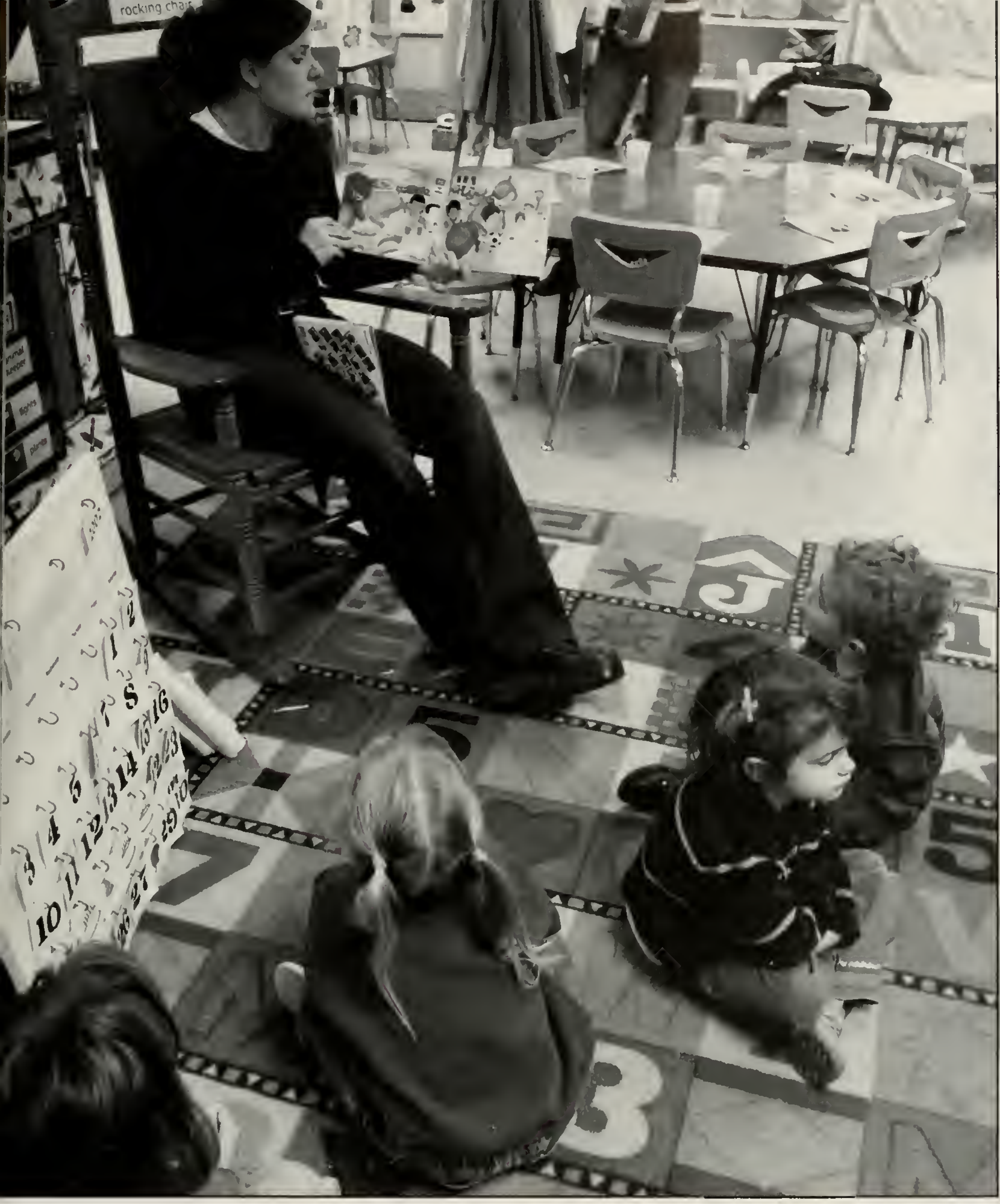
In addition, a hot lunch — made possible by state funding — is served at twelve o'clock, and an evening and morning snack is given to the children. These meals are, of course, in accordance with a state food program, so the nutritional guidelines are the same as the public school systems.

Although the daycare is certified for only twenty-four children at a time, Ms. James explains that she works with parents who have Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes and those who have scheduled Tuesday/Thursday classes. This means that the workers can watch at least forty-eight children a week.

Besides ensuring the accommodation of so many children, James' main focus in childcare has been to develop the social skills of these young children so that by the time they are in kindergarten they will be able to relate to other children in a class setting. In this environment, they also learn to follow directions, an important consideration to future teachers.

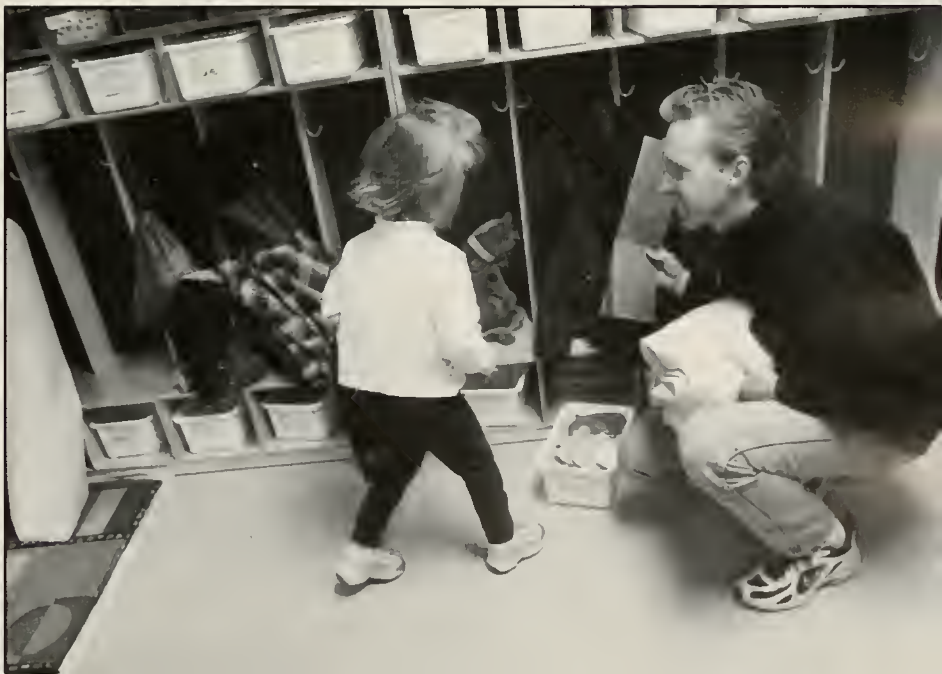
The daycare also provides an educational program through a center-based learning area where kids learn about topics such as language arts, math and computers. The employees decide on a theme for each center every month.

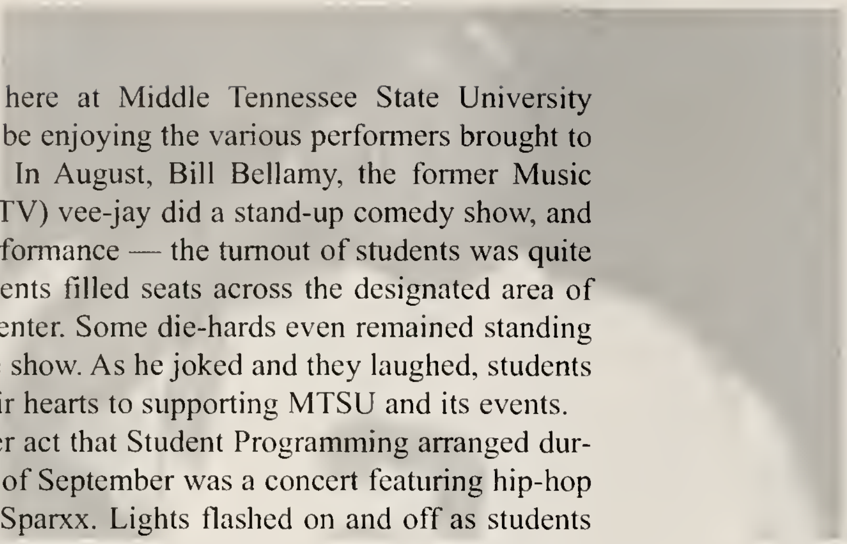
To the credit of MTSU, the daycare here not only fulfills its obligations, but also continues to be managed well under the competent supervision of its staff and director.

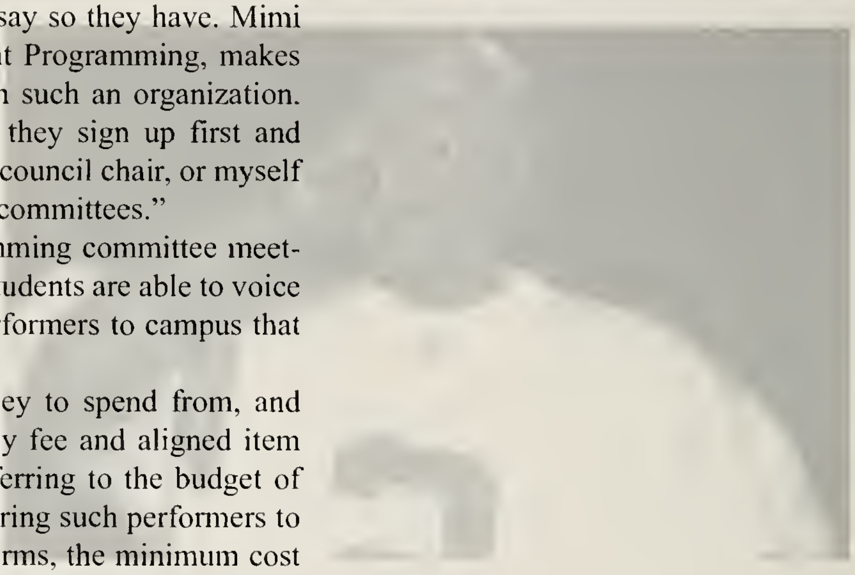


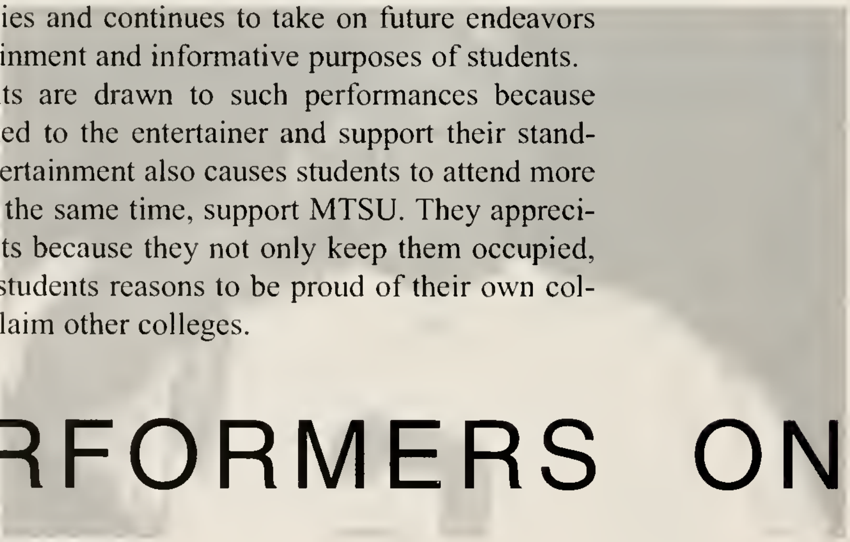
Above: Sara Ashley, a child care worker at the MTSU Day Care center, reads to the children after they have taken their naps. Activities fill each day to help the children stay active and grow.

Right: David Stemper laughs with his four-year-old daughter Caitlyn when he picks her up from the day care center.









PERFORMERS ON CAMPUS

by Lakisha Newby

Students here at Middle Tennessee State University seem to be enjoying the various performers brought to campus. In August, Bill Bellamy, the former Music Television (MTV) vee-jay did a stand-up comedy show, and — like his performance — the turnout of students was quite amazing. Students filled seats across the designated area of the Murphy Center. Some die-hards even remained standing throughout the show. As he joked and they laughed, students opened up their hearts to supporting MTSU and its events.

Another act that Student Programming arranged during the month of September was a concert featuring hip-hop rapper Bubba Sparxx. Lights flashed on and off as students raced out of their seats and onto the floor to get close-up pictures of the rapper and to dance to his music. Along with Bubba Sparxx came one of Middle Tennessee's own: rapper Haystack. Although students strongly believed that he lip synched, they enjoyed his performance.

Students have yet to find out that the more they participate and attend events, the more say so they have. Mimi Thomas, assistant director of Student Programming, makes suggestions for students interested in such an organization. She explains, "I would recommend they sign up first and then speak to Jennifer Kirk, program council chair, or myself in order to help them get plugged in committees."

By attending student programming committee meetings sponsored by Ideas and Issues, students are able to voice their opinions and possibly bring performers to campus that students would love to see.

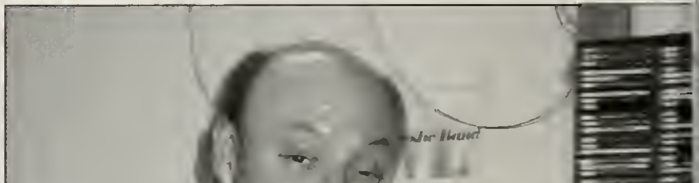
"We have two pools of money to spend from, and they are monies from student activity fee and aligned item operation budget," says Thomas, referring to the budget of Student Programming. The costs to bring such performers to MTSU range according to who performs, the minimum cost being $500. First started by Harold Smith, the director of the department of Student Programming — has offered many extra-curricular activities for on-campus as well as off-campus students. The organization persistently advocates activities for students in order to persuade them not to go home for the weekends as often. It is the department behind a lot of student activities and continues to take on future endeavors for the entertainment and informative purposes of students.

Students are drawn to such performances because they feel related to the entertainer and support their standings. Such entertainment also causes students to attend more events and, at the same time, support MTSU. They appreciate these events because they not only keep them occupied, but also give students reasons to be proud of their own college and not claim other colleges.

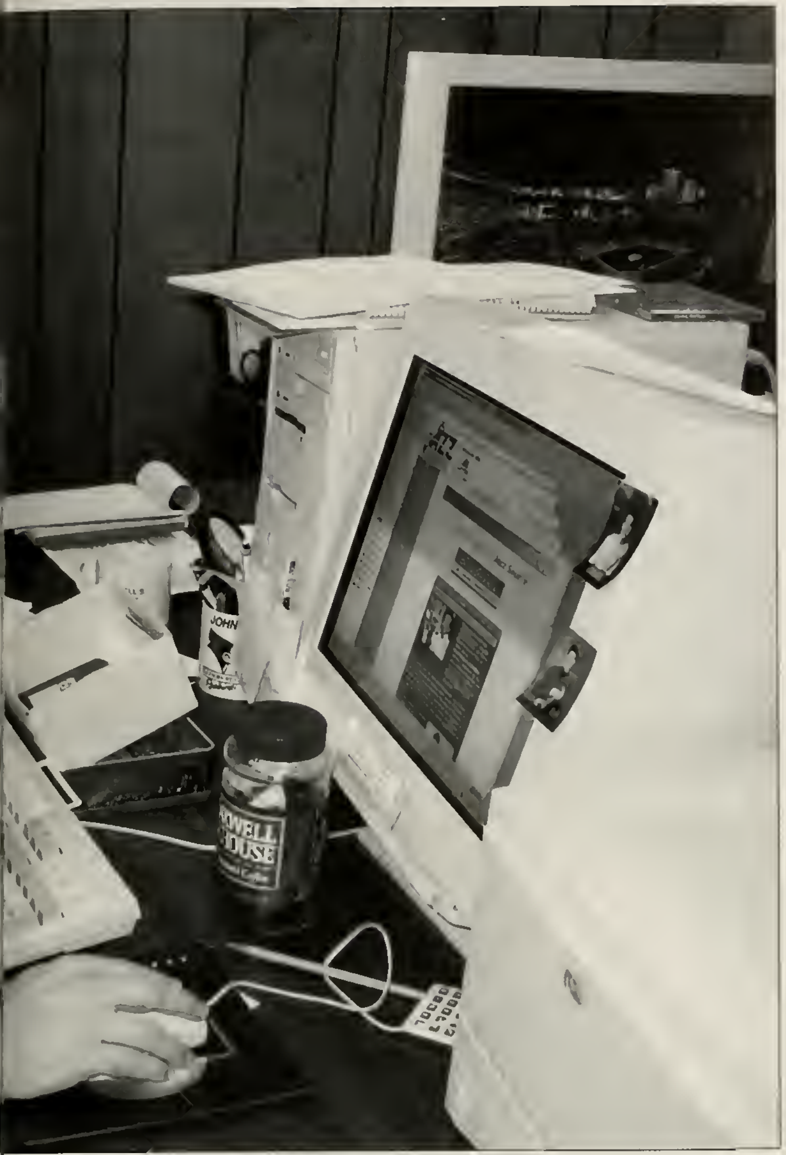
Bubba Sparks riles up the crowd in the Murphy Center Sept. 5. Sparks' concert was one of the main events during the Week of Welcome activities.
photo by Nick Peay

your college memories

place your own favorite images in boxes or on pages



WMOT Jazz *for you*



Opposite page, top: Working behind the scenes in the radio profession is something most students had to get used to. A lot of work went into putting a show together and not everyone received full gratification for all the work they did.

Left: John Egly programs the format. This gives the station a play list of songs that will be heard over the next few weeks.

Opposite page, bottom: Randy O'Brien checks mail and does some paper work.

WMOT–Jazz 89 went on air April 9, 1969, with 780 watts and a tower stretching 100 feet. Now, 30 years later, WMOT provides public broadcasting for middle Tennessee using 100,000 watts that are broadcast from a tower reaching more than 600 feet tall. WMOT–Jazz 89 is a member of National Public Radio (NPR) and a Corporation of Public Broadcasting (CPB) station. The station broadcasts 24 hours a day, thanks to MTSU, federal government grants and listener support from members as well as local businesses.

WMOT–Jazz 89 plays the music of renowned jazz musicians from all over the world. It also focuses on public service announcements and in-depth features on public affairs and provides news on both state and local levels.

Recently, WMOT received a first place award from the Tennessee Associated Press Broadcaster's Association for a feature story produced and reported by Shawn Jacobs that aired nationally across AP radio network.

Jacob's feature story about the Falcon Manor was a subject that he felt was easy to bring to life. This compelling piece was told from the standpoint of an inquisitive journalist who was intrigued with the unique history of the manor.

"Obviously, it's very gratifying to have your work recognized," says Jacobs when asked how he felt about winning the award. "It's particularly rewarding when that recognition comes from your peers. It's sort of a validation that your work is up to standards," adds Jacobs, who believes that other stories can be told in different ways and still be inspiring.

WMOT was also nominated twice for the Gavin Station award based on the stations 24 hour on-air overall performance. "This nationally prominent nomination speaks highly of MTSU students who are at times on air and behind the soundboard," says Laura Dunn, the developmental coordinator for WMOT.

"It's the obligation of the broadcaster to inform the public [and] help selected students in their pursuit of an education while reflecting credit upon the university," says John High, who has worked for WMOT since the late 1970s as its general manager.

"Auditions are conducted for on-air positions," High said, who quotes from www.wmot.org. "News student workers would go on to the news director and news producer for final processing. We allow selected students to take part in that professional routine, with professional expectations placed on them, to provide them with a taste of what's in store for them after graduation," he adds.

Some students looked for the open window, seized the opportunity of working in a studio and now fill positions such as a news sports anchor for FOX, the voice of the Vanderbilt Commodores and production runner for the Scene at Six on Channel Four.

The jazz art form has been educating the public since the early 1920s. WMOT expects their listeners to be able to understand the society they live in if the information that WMOT transmits relates to that society.

"It's a way we can give back to the community that gives back to us," says Laura Dunn, with a smile. Let us open our ears and hearts to WMOT. With the help of MTSU, CPB and listener support, WMOT will continue to touch the lives of jazz listeners in middle Tennessee.

Have you ever listened to "Female Mechanic On Duty" or "Wusses and the Hot Chicks That Love Them" on your radio? If you think they're punk rock bands, then you probably haven't heard of "Purity Control With Captain Ohio and The Adjective Guy" or the "Buttcrack of Dawn Show" either. These are actually names of some of the shows that can be heard on the student-run radio station WMTS-FM at Middle Tennessee State University.

"We're on the far left hand of the dial," says Brandy Moreau, the station's business manager, referring to the fact that listeners must tune their radios to 88.3 megahertz to pick up the station. Moreau also confesses, with a grin, that she's known to loyal listeners as "BooBoo Kitty," the host of the "Buttcrack of Dawn Show." "I'm like a mini-celebrity on campus," she says.

The station manager, James Palmer, thinks the popularity of WMTS and its on-air personalities can probably be attributed to its open format on many levels. Palmer, who is also known as "DJ Creepy," says, "We'll play whatever– polka, country, hip-hop, punk.

"We even had a DJ who wanted to do a show that featured experimental Celtic polka rock," Palmer notes. "We told him, if he could find enough music, we'd let him do it."

Becoming a DJ for the station is a relatively easy process. "Anyone is welcome to have a show, but there are some classes we give at the station that are required," Moreau says. "Then, students have to intern with one of the shows, and finally, they take a test over FCC regulations."

This may not sound easy, but Palmer assures everyone, "It's mostly common sense stuff [...]. It takes a lot of stupidity not to be a DJ." He also adds that the only real difficulty is getting an open time slot.

Of course, there wasn't always a student-run radio station to act as a voice for students. Moreau points out that it took four tries before WMTS became what it is today. When the station first went on air in March 1992, its original call letters were WNAR (We Need A Radio), and it was actually broadcast over cable TV. It wasn't until 1995, however, that the station began broadcasting over the radio waves. But WNAR didn't change its call sign immediately. The station didn't make the switch until WAPB in Murfreesboro donated its old letters (WMTS) to the station that fall.

The station has been in operation ever since, but there are still continual changes. WMTS, once heard in mono, has upgraded to stereo and to digital equipment through its years of operation. A name was even given to the station: The Ultimate. But that was removed, and even though other names have been considered, such as "The Monkey", "The Love", "The Noise" and "The Invader," Palmer, Moreau and other station officers agree that none represent WMTS and the students for what they are.

"I would be perfectly happy if the station never has a name," says Dr. Roger Heinrich, assistant professor of electronic media communication at MTSU and faculty adviser to WMTS. "I don't think there is a name that best represents the diversity of the station other than WMTS."

Heinrich had 26 years commercial experience before coming to MTSU a year ago and only recently became the adviser for the station in fall 2002. "I was asked, and I jumped right in!"

Heinrich says he finds the job fun, though, because it reminds him of his college radio days at Dickinson State University in North Dakota.

"It's a night and day difference between my old college-radio station and WMTS. We were only able to broadcast to our campus."

WMTS, on the other hand, can reach the Titan's football stadium on a clear day. And yet, as popular as the station is with students and younger audiences, Heinrich believes it still hasn't been discovered by the Murfreesboro and Nashville community as a whole.

"I believe it's due to the diversity of the station," Heinrich says. "Commercial stations always have one format whether it be country, jazz or whatever." The students at the station, however, think their mixture of styles is what makes WMTS appealing.

"More and more people are open to a broader range of music anyway," Palmer says. And to those who don't just listen but are involved with the station, WMTS is an effective outlet — even for the ones not graduating from the College of Mass Communications — for experimenting and learning with freedom that is absent in the commercial-radio industry. Ultimately, many students find the idea of being a DJ very glamorous. Without the revealing aspect of TV, radio allows people to be someone else while they are on the air.

"We like to hide behind our alter egos," Moreau says. Even Dr. Heinrich agrees. "The anonymity of radio is great! When I'm broadcasting, I'm 6 foot 5 and have a full head of curly hair [...]. It was the chance to be somebody like Machine Gun Kelly, one of the great radio personalities, that drew me into radio in the first place!"

And it is probably this same desire that WMTS affords students a chance to feel, even if it is just on campus.

Above: Junior Joel Ziegenmier takes a break and checks his email.

Opposite page: James Absher readies the cd player for his next song.

WMTS-FM
WMTS-FM

WMTS-FM

by Trey Simmons

The Voice of Student Radio

The Voice of Student Radio

88.3

the Wheel of $ Fortune

by Jessy Yancey

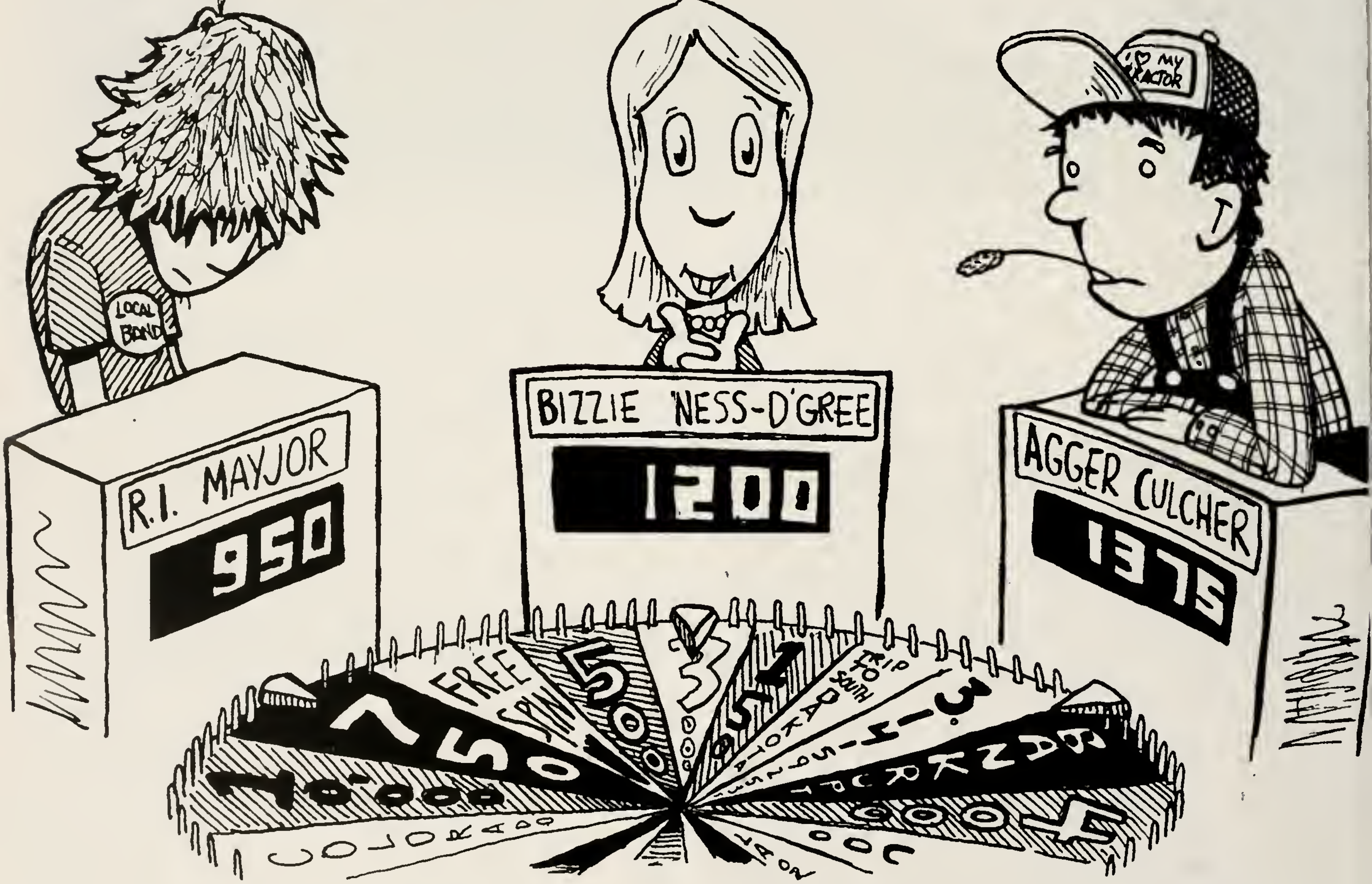

LOCAL BAND
R.I. MAYJOR
950
BIZZIE NESS-D'GREE
1200
I ♡ MY TRACTOR
AGGER CULCHER
1375
FREE SPIN
750
500
10,000
COLORADO
BANKRUPT

illustration by Lucas Antoniak
photo by Matthew H. Starling

Wheel of Fortune contestant Jonathan Boylan

"I've been watching *Wheel of Fortune* as long as my eyes have worked," says Kyle Brown, a freshman from Murfreesboro. Brown was just one of the thousands of people to show up at Murphy Center October 6, 2002 when the bright yellow Winnebego known as the Wheelmobile rolled onto MTSU's campus.

The Wheelmobile travels to various cities, auditioning game show fans for *Wheel of Fortune*. It is the number one television show in syndication, reaching 16 million people daily. The show, hosted by Pat Sajak and Vanna White, features three contestants spinning the big wheel and solving puzzles in order to win cash and prizes.

Though Pat and Vanna don't travel with the Wheelmobile to every city it visits, they were in Nashville in January at the Grand Ole Opry, where several series of the show were taped. The series included Country Stars Week, during which contestants played alongside their favorite country stars; Nashville Week, which featured prizes relating to the city, and Sweethearts Week, when married couples competed together.

According to Dennis Power, a representative of the show, the auditioning process is completely random. "You just fill out an application," explains Power, "and the applications are chosen randomly. If you are chosen, we bring you up onstage for a short version of the speed-up round, and you can win prizes." The applications are brought back to the contestant department in Los Angeles, which will pull other people for interviews.

The only requirement for trying out is that you must be at least 18. "We're looking for people who are fun to watch, with great energy and natural enthusiasm and, of course, those who are great puzzle-lovers," continues Power. "We're all about having fun."

Jonathan Boylan, an MTSU student from Manchester, has experienced the fun of *Wheel of Fortune* firsthand. According to The Record, the broadcast journalism major auditioned for the show in Nashville as part of an assignment for the newspaper where he is employed, never expecting to actually be chosen. To his surprise, Boylan received a letter of acceptance in July, his show was taped in August, and it aired in October.

"I was more nervous trying out than I was on the actual set," says Boylan. He says that you don't pay attention to what is going on because you are so focused on the game. "It was the quickest 20 minutes of my life," Boylan adds.

Nervousness was definitely in the air at Murphy Center. "I'm a little nervous considering every single person here is wanting to get on the show, too," says Tiffany Evetts, a sophomore from Dotham, Ala.. Evetts has been watching the show with her grandmother for as long as she can remember. "In fact," she adds, "it's my grandma who's pushing me to try out. She wants me to win some money."

Adam Munoz, a sophomore from Brentwood, agrees, saying that money and fame are his primary reasons for wanting to be on the show. But, unlike most applicants, he says he's only seen the show once. "I've played it on Nintendo many times," he adds in his defense. "I am a little scared, though, and excited."

"I'm not really nervous," says Melissa Wallace, a junior from Murfreesboro. "It's really kind of silly." Having watched the show since she was a kid, Wallace seems confident that she would have a good chance if her name is chosen. "I really love game shows."

As the audience simultaneously chants, "Wheel of Fortune!", we are reminded of how many people this phenomenon truly reaches. It is one of the most well-known shows on television, and the people of Middle Tennessee know this. Five thousand people auditioning can't be wrong — *Wheel of Fortune* is definitely an American TV classic.

Massage Class

by Robert Evans

You don't want to be a doctor, and being an athletic trainer means more weekends and traveling than you want. But you really want to work with people, and you care about the overall health and wellness of people in your community. Where can you turn?

The answer may be the moderately unknown Holistic Institute for Health, a part of the MTSU Division of Continuing Studies. Based on a non-credit academic regime, the program is intended to prepare students for the profession of massage therapy.

The classes are extensive and cover the range of total body health. Every aspect from nutrition to anatomy and even skin health make up the course material before students can even take introductory classes on massage. Since the emphasis is on the holistic aspect of health, courses on the mental aspects of massage and health are required as well.

Treymane Bennet, a student intern at the massage therapy clinic at the Rec Center, likens the program to a trade school or a two year degree program. "It's not recognized in the academic aspect of the university, so there is no degree, but you do get your (massage therapy) license," Bennet said.

The massage therapy clinic is where many of the students go to get their 80 hours of interniship credit before they leave the program. They can go elsewhere for the internship credits, says Bennet, "but most want to come over here."

The "here" Bennet refers to is a small area in the Rec Center where students and faculty/staff of the university can take advantage of the internship program and get a Swedish massage for less than half of what it costs at most other places. Bennet says that there are two benefits for going to the clinic versus a commerical business in the community or in Nashville:

1. The base price for a private massage is 60 dollars. At the clinic, the prices start out at 20 dollars
2. The interns are in the middle of gaining their experience. The learning and knowledge is still fresh in their head.

Plus, what better way to beat stress during finals?

These students observe the instructors and receive hands-on practice during their introductory massage therapy classes.

by Sarah Palmer

90 years as campus newspaper

SIDE

In the spring of 2003, *Sidelines* celebrated its 90th anniversary as the campus newspaper. What we now know as *Sidelines* was founded in 1913 by Mr. Robert Lee Jones, who was the college president at the time. This publication was called *The Signal*. However, *The Signal* was discontinued after only a few years because of World War I.

After the war, another newspaper/literary magazine similar to *The Signal*, *The Normalite*, began publication. After a few changes in format and name, *Sidelines* became the official campus newspaper that has lasted until today.

Sidelines is now almost completely student-run. This year's news editor of *Sidelines*, Amanda Maynord, describes it as being "by the students, for the students." However, coming out with a full newspaper three times a week requires a lot of hard work and a good team of students. "It takes a lot of organization," claims Maynord, who places great faith in her writers and fellow staff members.

Currently, the *Sidelines* staff is composed of about 15 people. This includes editors and designers for each section of the paper. However, this total number of employees is brought up to about 50 when one adds the writers, who are paid for the articles they write. "We have a really good set of writers," Maynord says. "The quality of the paper has changed greatly over the 3 years I've been here, and this reflects the skills of our writers."

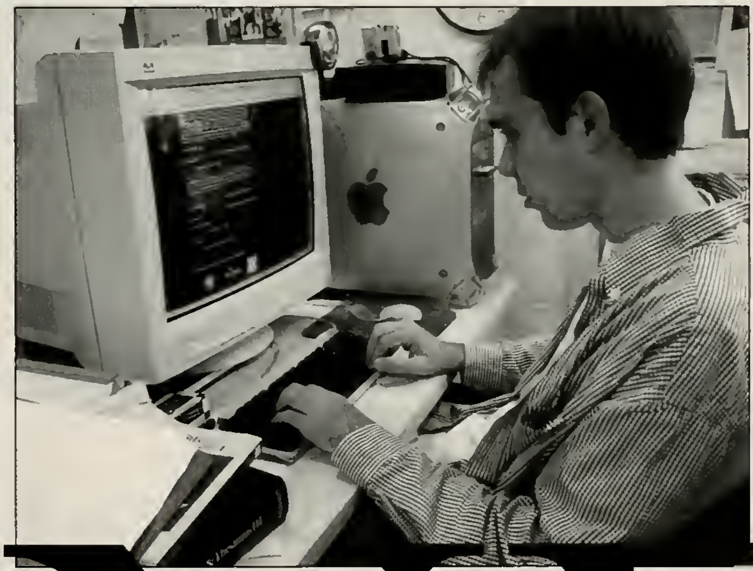
The production of *Sidelines* takes a lot of effort by all involved. "It's very constant," claims Maynord. Staff members are always looking for potential story ideas, which are then given to the writers. After the stories are written, they are collected and put on pages according to the instructions of the designers, who determine the layouts for each section. All the pieces are then put together, and the digital images are delivered to the local Murfreesboro paper, the *Daily News Journal*, who prints and distributes *Sidelines*. Then the whole process starts all over again. This equates to a whole lot of time in the office for the editors and designers. Maynord compares the time staff members are in the office to "about the amount of time you would spend on a full-time job."

Maynord believes that *Sidelines* has had a positive impact on the campus over the time it's been here. The paper reaches a wide variety of students and gets information to students who might sometimes miss out on what's going on.

However, news and information are not the only things that *Sidelines* staff are interested in; the paper is also sometimes good for a laugh. The Halloween issue, *Sideways*, had everyone talking about man-eating squirrels and got students into the spirit of the holiday.

The future of *Sidelines* is looking bright. Of course, staff members have some changes they would like to make in order to make the staff run better and produce a more interesting paper.

As news editor, Maynord says she would like to "increase the writer staff and get people with broader scopes, styles and abilities." However, with nothing as drastic as another name change in the future, it looks as if *Sidelines* will be around as campus newspaper for many years to come.



Left: Production Manager Nick Fowler works late during one of the *Sidelines* production nights. Staying late at the office to ensure the paper met deadline was one of the requirements for all the editors.

Right: Patrick Chinnery checks an article for grammatical errors.
photos by Matthew H. Starling

LINES

Harold Smith in his office, 1982. **Midlander File Photo**

Harold Smith
leaving a Legacy

SNOWMENS LEAGUE OF AMERICA
CHIEF POTENTATE Col. TOM PARKER

Editors Note:
Harold Smith has been a fixture on the campus of MTSU since he first stepped onto it in ***1963*** *as a student. Smith is planning on retiring in June of 2003 after* ***30+*** *years as Director of Student Programming. Along the way, he has touched the lives of many students, giving them valuable experience to become productive members of society. He has been the first and only Director of Student Programming. Every movie, speaker or musical act brought to campus through Student Programming has been the responsibility of Smith and his dedicated staff and student committees. The following is a memoir from a former student, explaining how Smith touched the lives of the students he guided.*

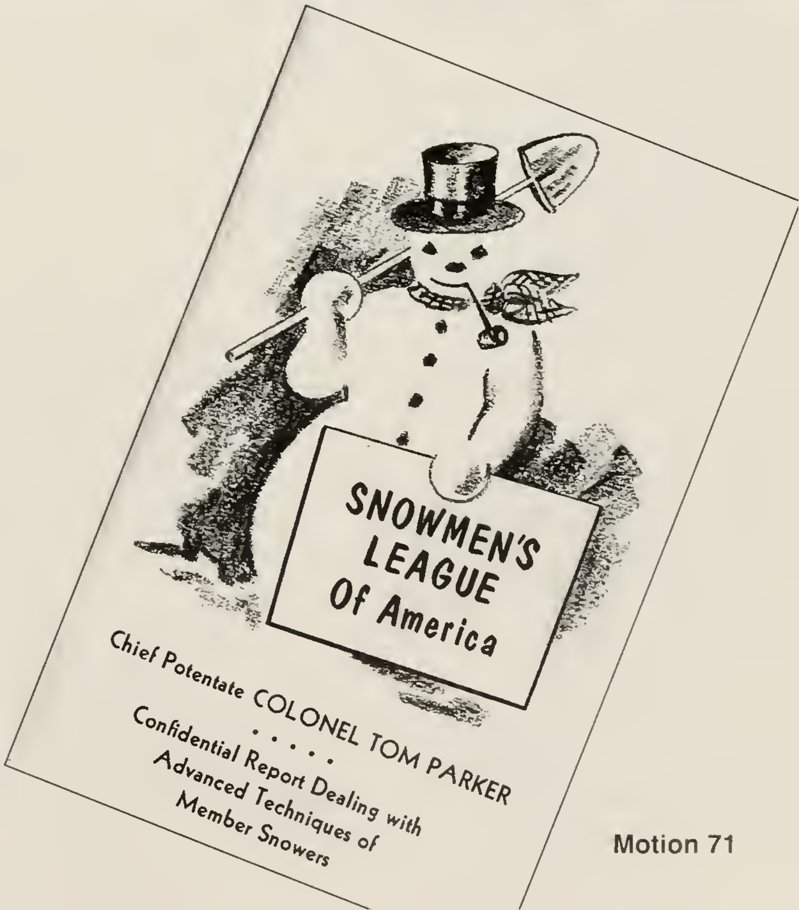
Harold Smith in his office 20 years later. **Photo Rob Evans**

I was a nervous cat, twisting in my seat. But I was determined to ask, "Harold, can I ride with you to the airport tomorrow?" Behind his desk, Harold Smith looked doubtful.

"Please? PLEASE? I'll be good. I'll sit in the back seat, and I won't say a word!" Now he REALLY looked doubtful. He knew me too well.

"OK, I promise I'll be cool. I won't act crazy or obsessed or embarrass you. This is very important to me. You know I wouldn't ask otherwise." Harold took a deep breath. He was thinking about it. Little did either of us know that his decision would echo in my life a decade later.

I was a sophomore at MTSU when, in 1976, I first took a job as film projectionist for Student Programming under the direction of Harold Smith. I served on the films committee for the next four years (including one year of graduate school), showing films, selling and taking tickets and selecting the films for the next year. I served as films committee chair for two years, and as such, Harold helped me learn skills that were not a part of my regular MTSU education: negotiation, budgeting and team management. I had always



SNOWMEN'S
LEAGUE
Of America

Chief Potentate COLONEL TOM PARKER
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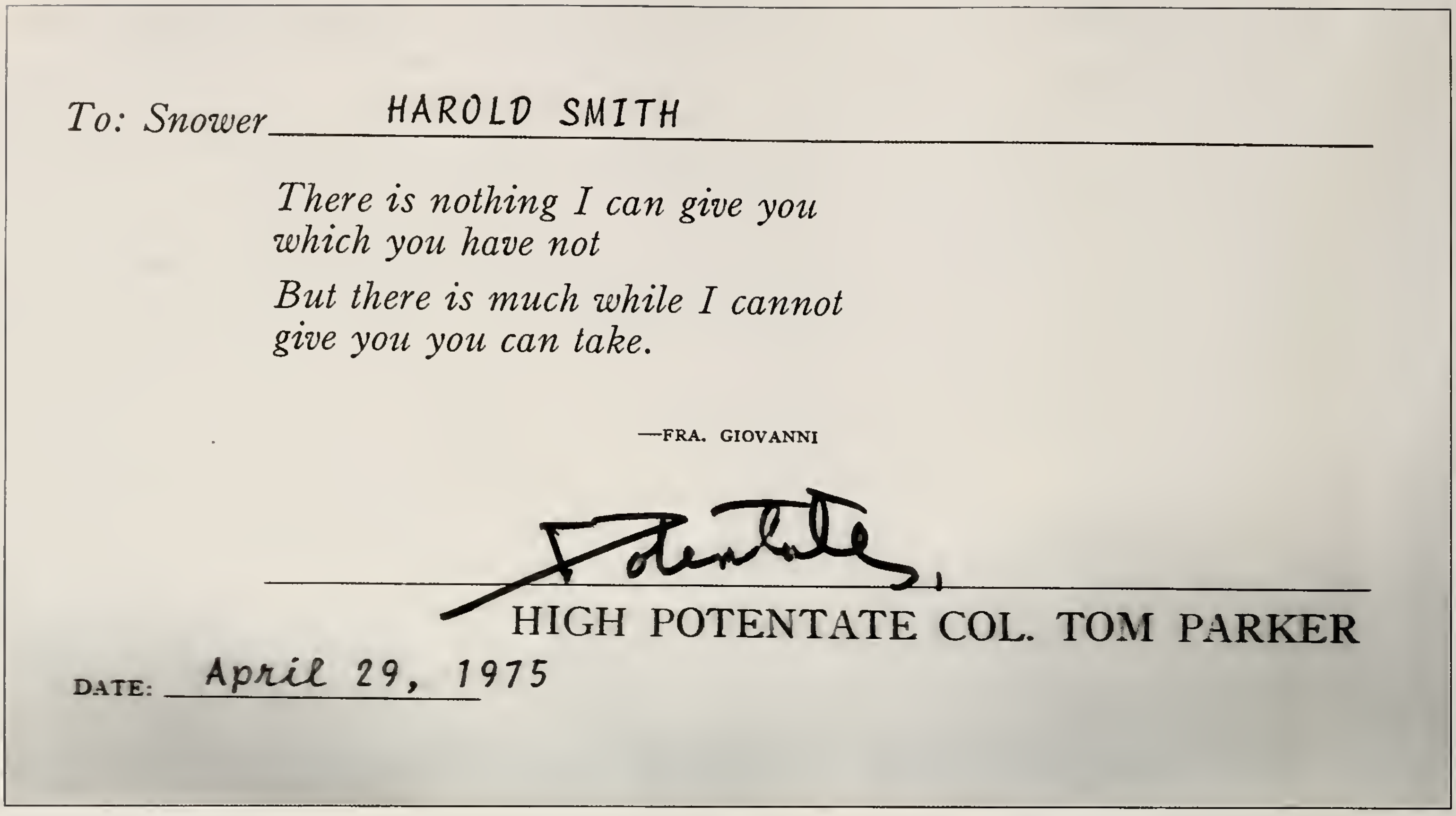
Confidential Report Dealing with
Advanced Techniques of
Member Snowers



To: Snower HAROLD SMITH

There is nothing I can give you
which you have not
But there is much while I cannot
give you you can take.

—FRA. GIOVANNI

Potentate,

HIGH POTENTATE COL. TOM PARKER

DATE: April 29, 1975

always been shy, but my work with Harold helped build my self confidence and self-esteem.

I loved his easy-going style, and he was the first boss I was comfortable arguing with. And we had some good ones. Yet I respected him and his authority.

Harold put me on my first plane when he sent me to Kansas City to a student programming convention. I spent three days and nights watching one film after another, coming home owl-eyed and far wiser about the film industry than I ever wanted to be. The trip helped develop in me a love of films and the industry that continued into the 80s, when I took up screenwriting, became a founding board member of the Tennessee Screenwriting Association and won an award at the Houston International Film Festival.

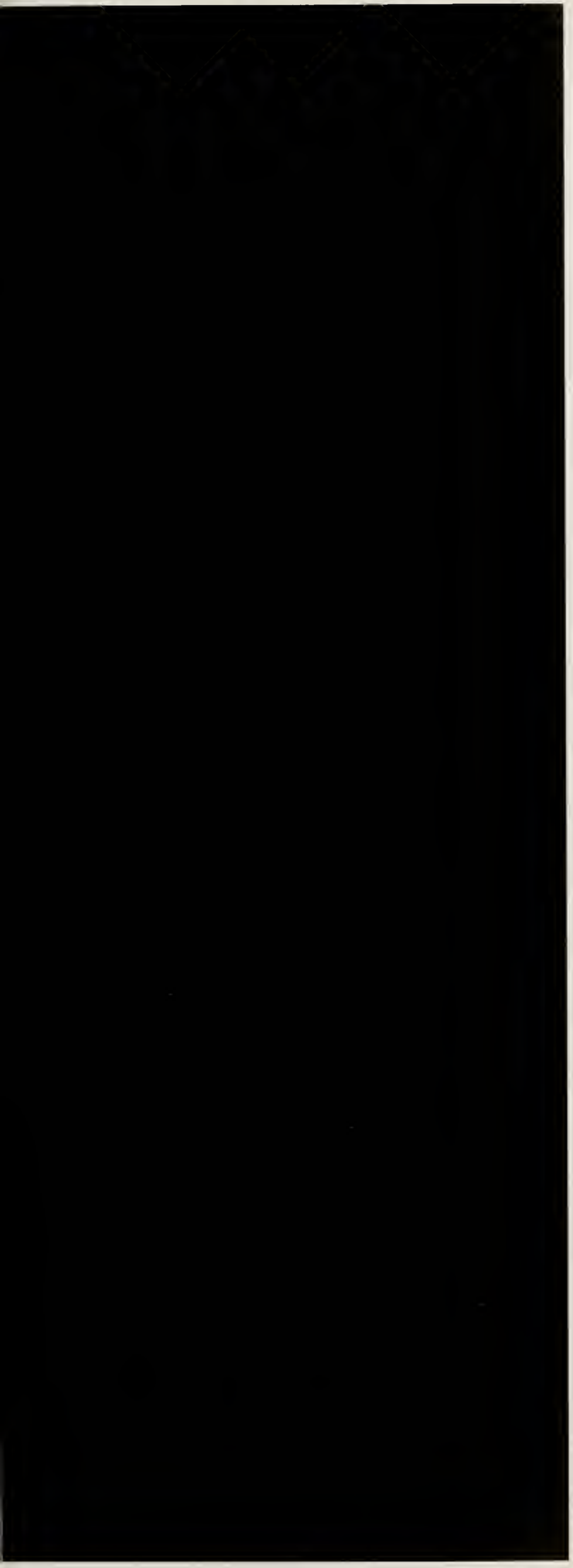
Working with Harold, however, involved more than just films. Several of his programming kids hung out in his office, and the staff was terrific. I still have artwork hanging in my home that Georgia Dennis drew for me, and I'm still friends with one of the films committee crew, almost 30 years later. I went to Harold for advice, and he always had time. It was this openness that allowed me to plop down in one of his chairs on a rainy afternoon and beg for permission to curl up in his backseat during a ride to the airport.

He said yes. The next day, I was pale-faced and clammy as Harold collected Harlan Ellison from his hotel room. I admired Ellison and his work with an awe approaching worship, but during that trip, Ellison put me at ease, joking around and answering my questions gently but firmly. The man had a reputation for being an ogre at times, but to me he was kind and encouraging. When we got out at the airport, Ellison stroked my cheek and said, "You'll be ok, kid. Just keep working."

I did, and by 1981, I was working in the publishing field. Nine years and several editorial jobs later, I was working at my desk when the phone rang, and a stern voice said, "Ms. Richards, this is Harlan Ellison, and I have a bone to pick with you." I was in the process of editing an anthology featuring one of Ellison's stories, and he was upset. But I remembered the man who'd treated a young writer with grace, and I addressed his anger without fear. We have corresponded several times over the years, and he remains a major influence on my life and my work, due in part to Harold Smith's willingness to indulge a young girl's dream.

But it wasn't just me. I saw Harold do something similar hundreds of times during the four years I worked with him. He was a gracious boss, whose low-key style and sense of fun, at times, masked his determination to do his job efficiently and thoroughly. He knew how much freedom to give the kids–and how tightly to hold the reins. Harold Smith was the first person who showed me how a great manager actually works. He was a true mentor and, above all, a friend.

Ramona Pope Richards
BS '79
MA'84



WELCOME TO OUR NEW SNOW MEMBERS

Now you are like one of us
In fair and snowy weather.
You will know from day to day
How SNOWMEN live together.
You know how CLOSE we are,
Like snowflakes on the window.
But never let your snow befall
On some unworthy fellow.
We cling like peaches on the vine
And drink our snow like it was wine.
We always do the things we do,
And now you are included too.

Potentatelly,
Potentate.

Coffee Houses
Around the ‘Boro

by Melissa Spoonamore

Offering the aroma of freshly brewed coffee mingled with the smell of freshly baked breads and comfort foods, coffeehouses provide students with quiet getaways where they can relax and unwind with friends.

Coffeehouses are a fast growing, popular trend in Murfreesboro. With less time on their hands these days, people are eating out more. Business entrepreneurs are catching on to this trend and continue to open more cafes and coffeehouses in this area to fulfill the java cravings of coffee lovers in Murfreesboro.

Two locally owned businesses are The Red Rose Bistro, located at 528 West College Street, and The Clay Cup Coffeehouse, which opened about a year ago on The Square. The Red Rose Coffeehouse and Bistro was Murfreesboro's first "real" coffeehouse and got its name from the building in which it is housed. The building was the home of Red Rose Dairies from the 1920s until it closed in the early 1960s. The building remained vacant until 1995 when Patty Hoffman opened up shop, and the coffeehouse immediately attracted students who were looking for a quiet place to study off campus.

"We love our jobs," said current owners Mike Mullins and Bingham Barnes. "With the rapid growth of Murfreesboro, [we] hope to keep the shop going for many years to come."

The Red Rose Bistro not only serves unique blends of coffee such as Ethiopia Yirgacheffe and Organic Rainforest, but it also provides a fun and entertaining atmosphere for people to come and socialize with others. The Red Rose opens its doors to a wide variety of customers ranging from high school and college students, to even stay at home moms. Live music and small art exhibits are also part of the Red Rose Bistro's scene.

While The Clay Cup attracts many MTSU customers, the people who work on or near The Square also frequent the coffeehouse. When the space became available, owners Brian and Tracey Niles decided to open a business in the busy area.

"We saw this empty space as a great business opportunity for us and thought a coffeehouse and cafe was just what the town square needed," they say.

However, despite the popularity of these unique, independent venues, Starbucks is still among the most popular stores because it is well known and available in many locations on campus and in the Murfreesboro area, including a location in the KUC. The chain serves regular espresso traditions such as lattes and mochas, but it still offers a wide variety of other beverages such as chai tea and icy, cold Frappuccinos.

Holly Ray, an Asian studies major, says she likes Starbucks' selection. "I like how Starbucks has a variety of items on their menu and does not just have cappuccinos. Starbucks is also a good place to meet and hang out with friends," Ray says.

Though Murfreesboro is home to several other establishments that feature unique coffee blends, not all of these cafes are considered coffeehouses. Still, don't be afraid to branch out and visit them. They may not all carry the trendy title of coffeehouses, but they still can offer students the opportunity to relax and unwind with friends while enjoying the comfort of legally addictive stimulants.

MOCHA JAVA
DECAF DUTCH CHOCOLATE

These students enjoy hanging hanging out at the Red Rose coffehouse at 528 W. College St. The Red Rose serves food as well as showcasing bands many night of the week.
photo Megan Allender

Snow Day at MTSU

CLARKSVILLE HIGH
SOCCER

by Jeff Harding and Robert Evans

Break is over; classes are officially back in session; it is not a holiday. But there will be no classes today; biology is cancelled; Evolution will not be televised. What could cause this anomaly, this rare occurrence when teachers will close their books and lock classroom doors? There can be only one explanation: snow has come to MTSU.

I say anomaly, and I mean it in the fullest sense of the word. Even now in my fourth year at Middle, I can only remember four or five times when the white blanket has covered the earth and the bows of the trees have bent under the extra burden of wintry bliss. And to add the impossible to the improbable–this time the school has closed.

Could it be that our Bahamian President was concerned for the well-being of his student body? Was it the admission department looking for a new deceptive angle for the prospective student brochure? Whatever the case may be, this has been the first time our school has closed for snow in nine years.

I can think of no precedent in my tenure at this school to the overwhelming sense of joy experienced and exhibited by the students here at MTSU–nay! not even last year's appearance of the Baja Men can parallel the madness that has consumed our campus this day.

The normally bleak winter demeanor of our campus has traded its rags of melancholy for garments of white ecstasy. The students run through the Knoll and down to the Quad. They roll on the new tundra. They make snowmen who will never be confined to classroom walls. They pelt innocent passersby with barrages of snowballs. They laugh; they yell. They let loose all of the joy that has been bottled up, waiting to be freed, to remind us of the kids we all once were, the kids we too often forget how to be.

Yes, I repeat: School has been closed! Now go! Free your mind and play in the snow!

Far Right: In the midst of the storm, even visibility from the JUB to KOM was at a minimum.
Right: A good old-fashioned snowball fight and a smile.
Above: The honors students put their heads together to create the biggest snowman on campus before it was torn down in a 300 person snowball fight.
photos by Robert Evans

Left: Members of the student patrol map out their tasks for the evening. (Left to right: Craig Whitney, Ed House, Roger Bates and David De Leon.

Right: A student patrol member posts Crime Stoppers posters in buildings across campus.

Below: Ed House radios dispatch to tell them that Cope is secure.

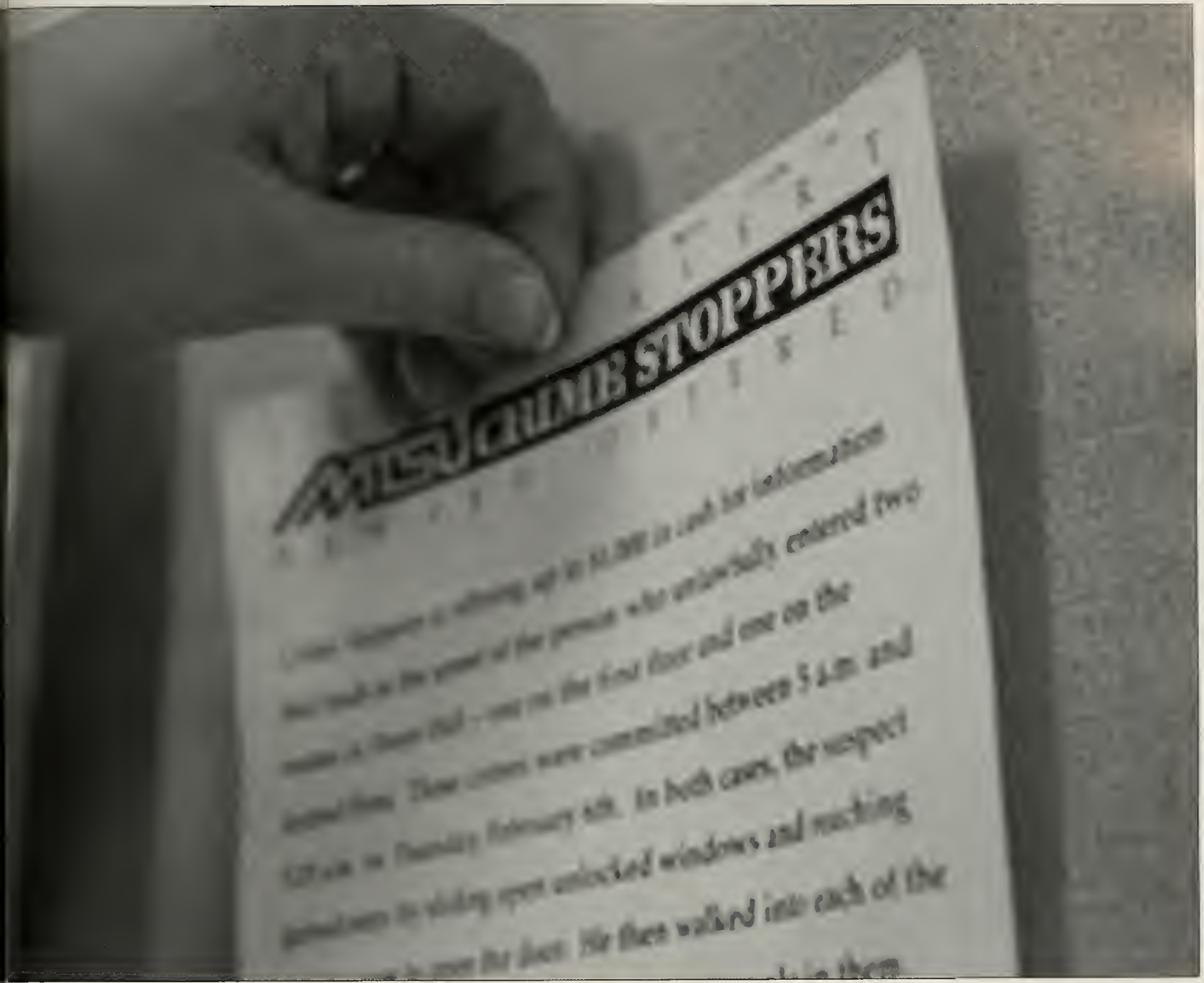
Student police officers gain experience

by Sarah Palmer
photos by Amy Jones

They seem like regular college students. They are concerned with classes during the day, studying, homework and friends. Hanging out with them, though, you wouldn't believe how much they impact your everyday life. These are the people who help keep the MTSU campus and students safe. They are the student patrol.

Many MTSU students have jobs to help offset the cost of their college expenses. Fast food, waitressing, sales–these are all common choices in the Murfreesboro area. Being a member of the student patrol is a job as well. The workers are all official students at MTSU who are hired and paid by the school. Potential employees first fill out an application and are then interviewed by a member of the campus police before they are hired.

Even though the student patrol and the campus police are not the same thing, MTSU students on the patrol still have a lot of responsibility. The job is not always easy. One member of the student patrol, junior Craig Whitney, says his job entails doing "anything to make the campus to be secure and safe." And Middle Tennessee State University is a rather



large campus.

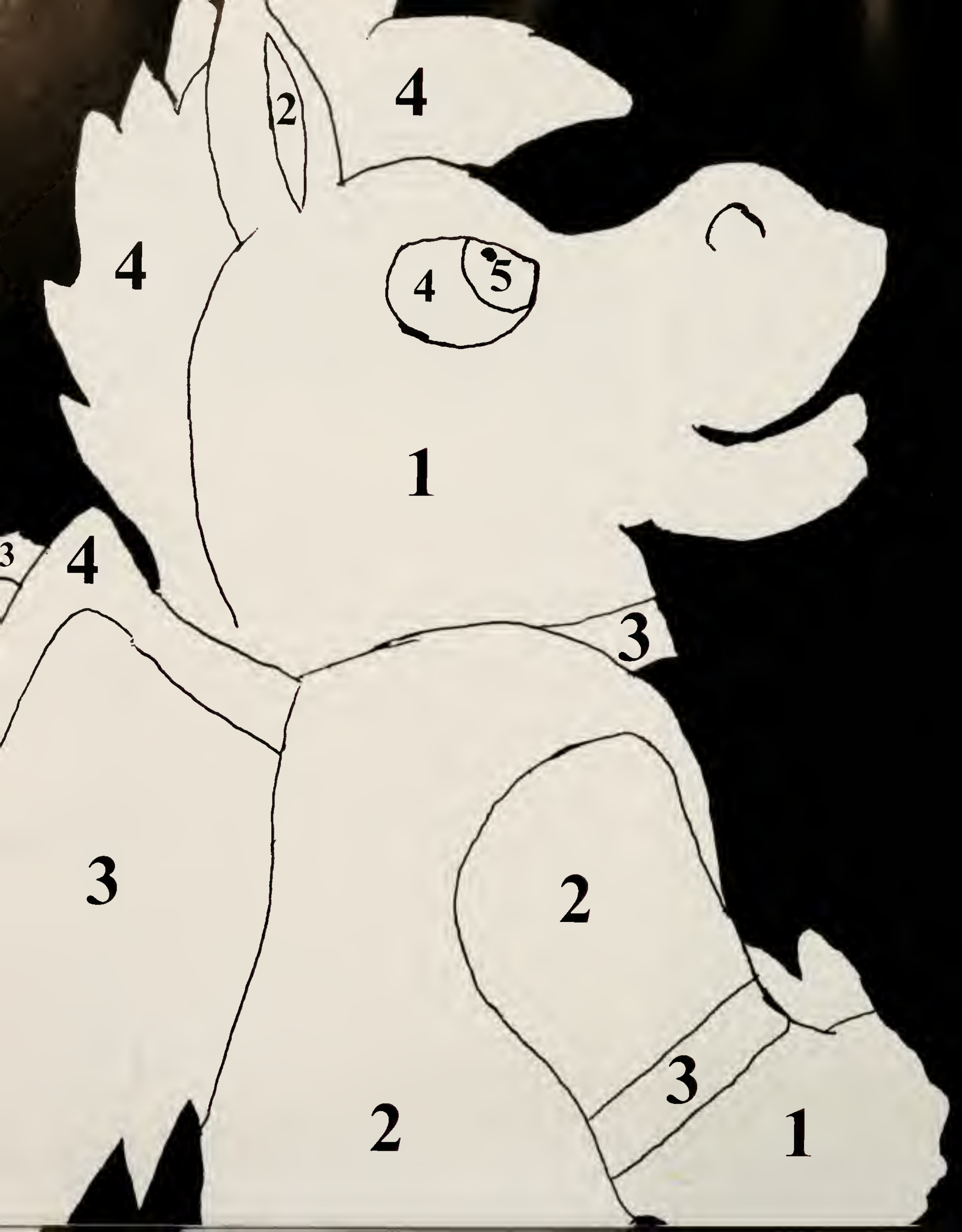
Whitney describes his nightly job as just "the usual" as far as the student patrol goes. Every night, he clocks in and is assigned a "zone," a part of campus to patrol. After he gets the keys and a radio, he's ready for business.

The main duty of the student patrol is, well, patrolling. The job requires a lot of walking. Students make their rounds throughout their zone, on the lookout for anything that appears out of the ordinary, like someone getting robbed or anything that could possibly lead to a dangerous situation, such as an argument.

Student patrol members also close campus buildings for the night. First, they go through the buildings, letting any students or faculty still inside know the building is closing. Patrolmen then secure the building, making sure that everything is in place, and lock the doors.

"We also are a big part in the escorts," says Whitney, explaining another key responsibility of the student patrol. Escorts are available for anyone by calling the campus police department, who will then dispatch someone to the caller. Many calls come in after dark from people a little hesitant about walking by themselves– and for good reason. The 2002 fall semester and the 2003 spring semester saw its fair share of crime, including sexual assaults and even robberies at gunpoint. With so many things that could happen after dark, many do not feel very comfortable by themselves and, therefore, call an escort. Who doesn't feel safer with a member of the student patrol walking by his or her side?

To many, a job is just a job, something to pay the bills, something that you aren't supposed to enjoy, something that you have to put up with in order to get a paycheck. However, to Whitney, being a member of the student patrol is so much more than that. With original plans of attending college in order to go to law school, his work on the student patrol force has impacted him enough to consider law enforcement as a possible career. "I am beginning to question my career option in wanting to go to law school [...] it turns out that I actually enjoy performing my tasks and am wanting to do more for the department," he claims. Now you probably can't say that after flipping burgers.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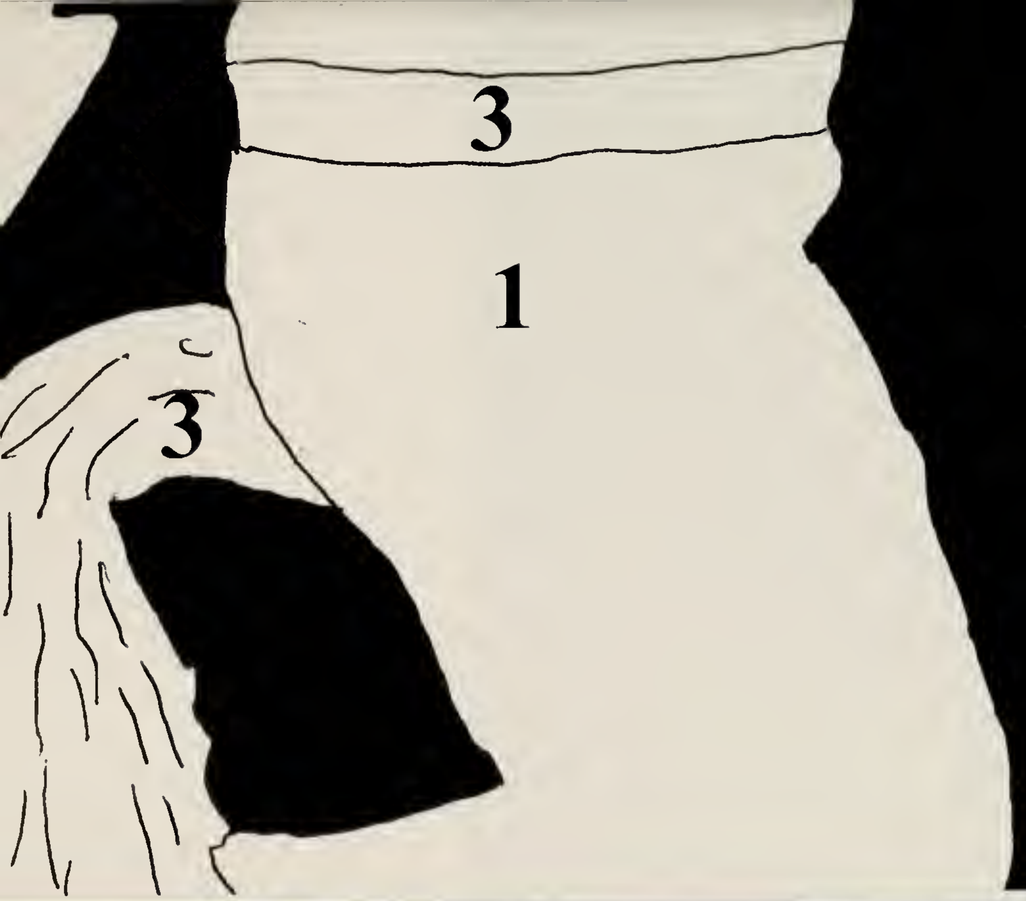
1	royal blue
2	light blue
3	silver
4	white
5	black



The mascot that first symbolized MTSU was Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest. Around 1945, the university began using the figure in conjunction with the nickname Blue Raiders. During the mid-1970's, the figure of General Forrest was abandoned due to sensitivity to African-American students. The "unofficial" mascot of a cartoon-like blue tick hound affectionately known as Ole Blue was adopted in the 1980's. In 1997, the Peagasus, nicknamed Lightning, took over the official duties as mascot.

color by numbers

(directions) color in Lightning

issues

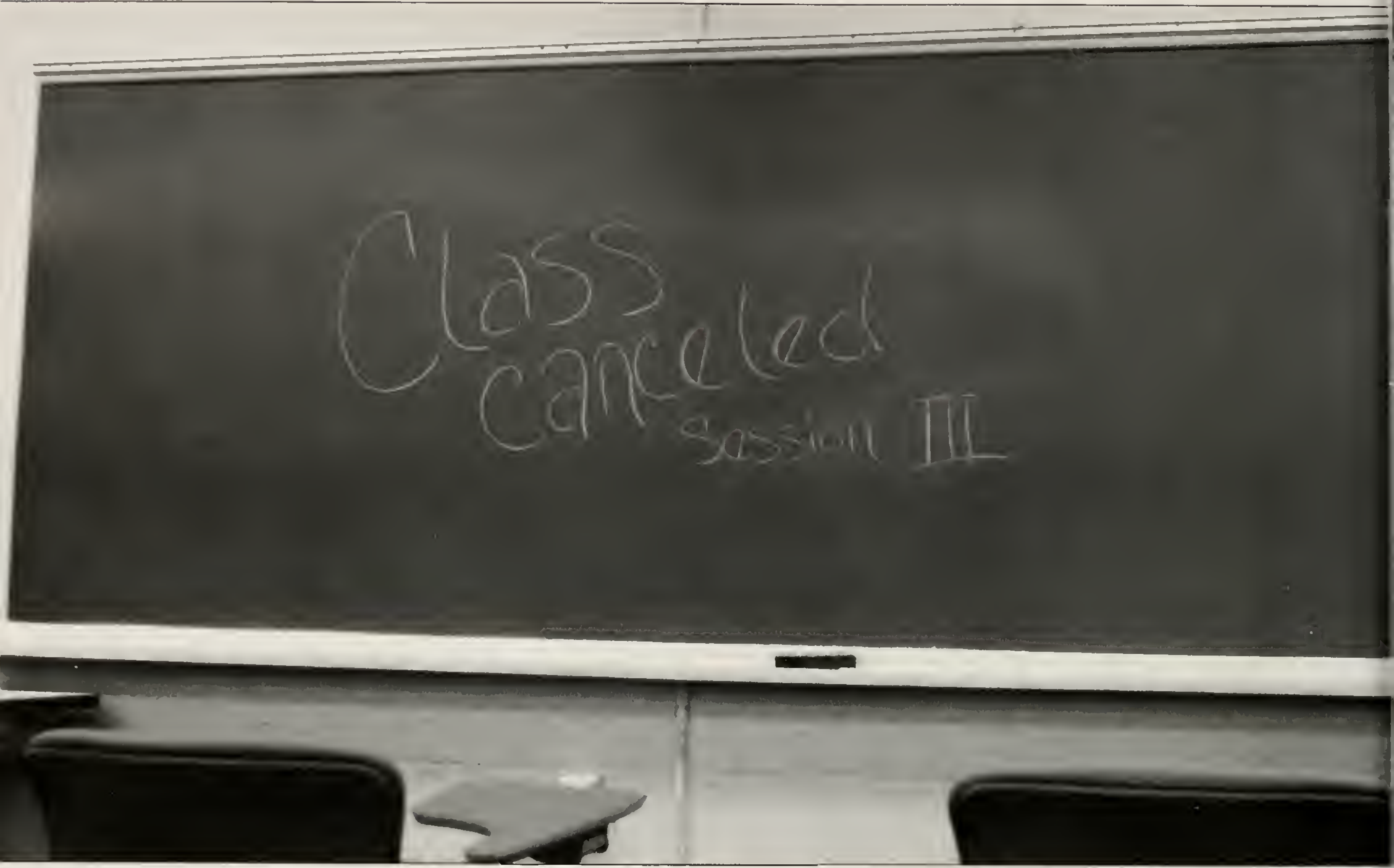
Neutrality is at times a graver sin than belligerence.

-Louis D. Brandeis

Hatred
is
america's
real
enemy
STAMP OUT
PROPAGANDA

TENNESSEE BUDGET

by Christopher Magan



As the mercury topped out in Middle Tennessee last summer, the debate over the state budget began to heat up in the Nashville legislature.

Politicians could not agree on a plan to balance the state's budget or whether they would need to pass an income tax in order to do so.

Despite continuous taunting by protesters, lawmakers could not come to a decision by the deadline of June 30, and Tennessee was faced with a partial government shut down. Consequently, all nonessential state employees were furloughed until the government could come to an agreement over the state's financial situation, and an emergency budget was put in place in early July.

"I was teaching a summer course at the time and was deemed to be a 'nonessential' employee," said Dr. Mark Byrnes, professor of political science. "This was somewhat insulting. I also had to cut a day or two out of the course, although I'm not sure my students were that upset."

Middle Tennessee State University, along with the rest of the state's public institutions of higher education, was forced to make decisions regarding summer classes that were in session. How long the university could operate without state funds and which programs would have to be limited were just a few of the important questions administrators faced.

"The closing of the universities was largely symbolic," said Dr. John Vile, chairperson of the political science department. "Educators weren't the only state employees to be declared nonessential, but the term itself was not particularly good for campus morale."

"When the legislature passes a budget, what they are really doing is passing an authority to spend money," explained Duane Stucky, vice president of finance and administration. "That authority stopped on June 30. There were no state appropriations that we had authority to spend.

"Universities have a little bit more flexibility because

CRII

we do collect a student fee income, which is roughly 40 percent of what we take in, so we had a cushion and some options other state agencies didn't," Stucky said.

This cushion of fees allowed the university to remain open for two days after nonessential state services were suspended.

Stucky said that the primary problem was that there were several summer terms beginning, ending or in progress around the time of the shutdown, and the effect it would have on students was the main concern of administrators.

"No matter what you were doing, you were interfering with some students' education," Stucky said.

Dr. Robert W. Spires, professor and chair of electronic media communication, said that his Media and Society class had scheduled final presentations for that week but were unable to present them because of the time constraints.

"I was surprised by the anger of the students," Spires said. "They felt like they were being, if not shortchanged, forced to do not their best work."

Other university services also had critical decisions to make in the wake of a suspension of state funding. Housing and student orientation were two difficulties the Office of Student Affairs had to face.

"We also had a serious situation," said Dr. Robert K. Glenn, Vice President of Student Affairs. "We came within a day or so of having to empty the campus, to turn people away, some of whom had no place to go."

There was also a Customs session — when incoming students register for classes — scheduled for July 1.

"We knew that if we did not register those students, they would be irreparably harmed," said Glenn. "Because by the time they could have come back to campus and [registered], there would not have been anything left for them."

Glenn believes that the budget crisis of last summer is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the problems universities are going to have to face in coming years.

"I think the real effect goes beyond the simple inconvenience factor that we experienced over the summer," Glenn said. "The real impact, the crisis, is the fact that we are critically behind in facilities with no realistic hope of catching up in the future."

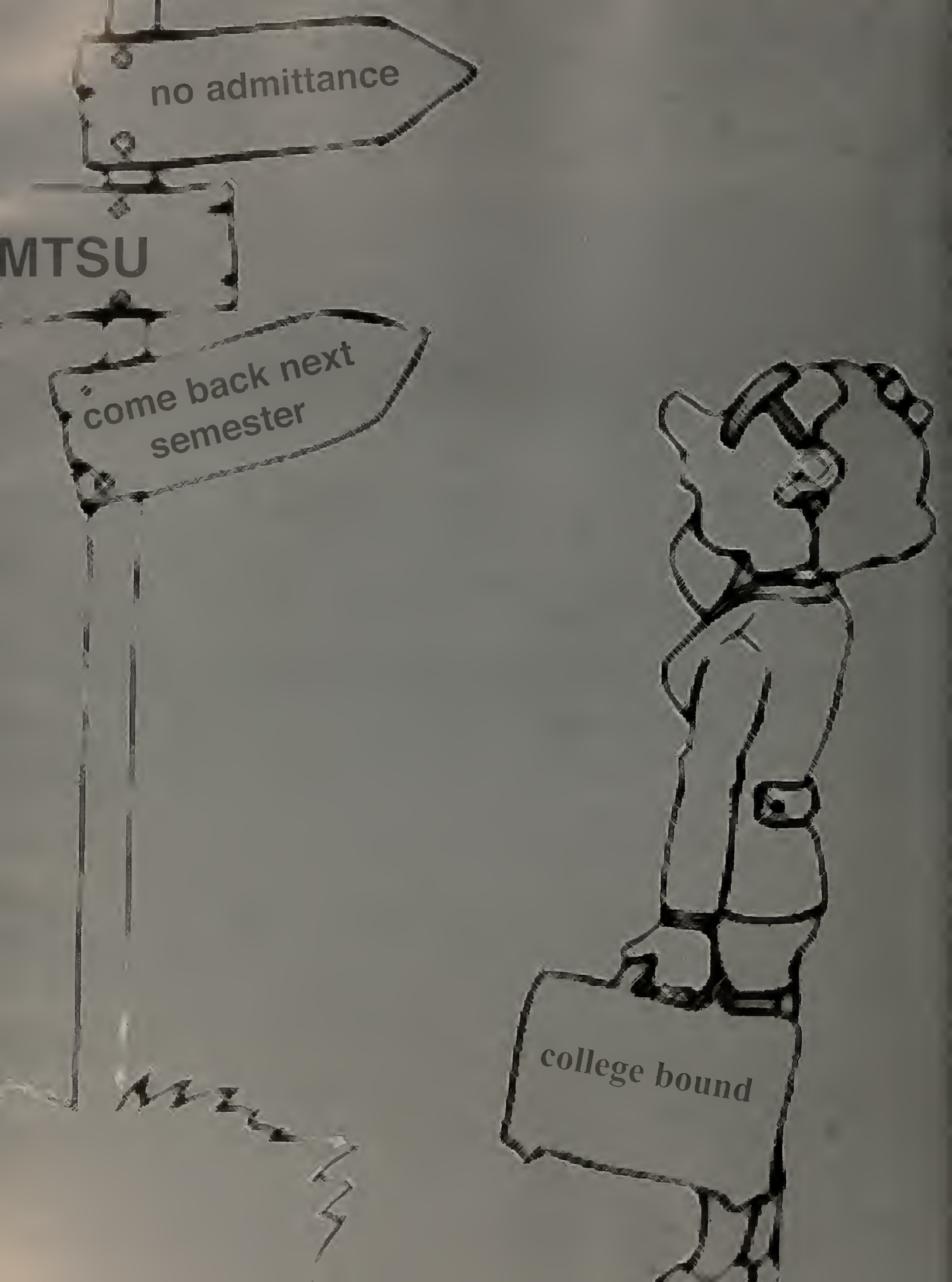
With the wide array of problems facing the university system, the budget crisis of summer 2002 appears to be a link in an already weak chain. Faculty and administrators agree that something must be done at the state level to insure positive support for public higher education.

"The shutdown of the state universities during last summer's budget debate is further proof that higher education ranks low on the priority list in Tennessee," said Byrnes.

Both Glenn and Stucky agree that the university should develop some type of plan that deals with government shutdowns and budget problems without adversely effecting students' education.

"If it comes down to the eleventh hour next year, I would imagine by that time we would all have been asked to have some contingency plan underway," Stucky said.

MTSU
204 North Baird Lane
Budget Office
CLOSED
NO BUDGET


no admittance
MTSU
come back next semester
college bound

Enrollment

[illegible]

With more than 21,000 students and an official ranking as the second largest university in Tennessee, can MTSU handle the enrollment growth that is yet to come?

"The main problem that is rising around the enrollment at MTSU is the growth," says Sherrian Huddleston, Director of Records at MTSU.

"The current rate that MTSU can grow at and still manage is four percent," Huddleston says. "We are looking to manage this responsibly with the resources that we have: classroom space, faculty and services that we offer to the students. Even at a rate of four percent growth, this still leaves some of the specific colleges within MTSU overcrowded," she adds.

For the most part, the problems tend to be directed toward the recording industry program and the nursing program. The College of Mass Communication recently instated an admission to candidacy policy in response to the growth.

"An admission to candidacy means that certain requirements must be fulfilled for students to be admitted into these programs," Huddleston says.

Even if a student declares a major early in his or her college career, there usually are several prerequisite courses that must be taken along with maintaining a specific grade point average. The GPA that must be maintained is set by the college that the student's major is a part of.

"If students are looking at a program with limited space, they would need to make sure they perform well in lower division courses and keep grades up so they could compete for the spots available," explains Huddleston.

"The university, overall, has an enrollment committee set up to consider and look into many options, such as raising the admission standards into the college, or changing the grade point average standard or ACT score," Huddleston says.

"The problem with this," she says, "is that our admission standards are higher than most of the other — if not all of the other — schools in the immediate area. The admissions office is also having to be more restrictive with their admission by committee review. This occurs if students fall right below the admission standards or come from an out-of-state school and have not completed the required courses," Huddleston says.

University officials also have put into place an admission deadline for applications.

"We have to know early enough to plan for services, faculty, department chairs and filling classes. This helps to determine if there is a need to hire adjunct teachers and, if so, how many," Huddleston says.

"Those who don't decide to submit an application before the deadline are placed on a waiting list and called if spots become available," she says.

Because of the growth, departments have also had to make substitutions for some of the courses that are overcrowded.

"In any area, the deans are very agreeable to look at substitutions to help students. And the department chairs have been really good at doing an overload for graduating seniors," Huddleston says.

"The issues that have risen around the enrollment at MTSU," she says, "will continue to be changed and updated according to what MTSU can handle at the time."

A P

Cell phones on campus

by Elizabeth Dugan
photos by Matthew H. Starling

Middle Tennessee State University has been invaded: not by an unknown alien life form, but by well-known predators such as Cingular, Verizon and Cricket.

It is not uncommon to see people walking around campus with cell phones connected to their ears. In fact, on just about any class day one can sit on the Knoll outside of the Keathley University Center and point out at least five passersby using cell phones at any given time.

According to the findings of a recent "snapshot" survey taken on the campus, 86 of the 100 students surveyed own a cell phone, and 76 of those student phone-owners take them to class. Moreover, the findings of the unofficial survey also revealed that 30 percent of the students polled report that at least four of their respective teachers have some sort of cell phone policy for their classes.

Not all students are in favor of having cell phones in classes, however, including Brad Geary, a Radio Industry Production major from Houston, Texas, who says that when a cell phone rings in class, it's "very annoying."

Geary is part of the 20 percent of MTSU students surveyed who think that there should be a penalty for phones ringing in class. Geary's reason for his stance on the issue, he says, is because it's very disruptive when "everyone points and laughs" when a cell phone rings in class.

Similarly, Emily Jones, a Public Relations major from Orlando, Florida, also is among the minority in the survey who believes that there should be a rule against cell phones in class. Jones adds that the problem would be solved if there were a rule stipulating that students "must have phones on vibrate or turned off." She doesn't believe there should be a penalty to enforce the rule, however, because if it happens, "the teacher will not like the person," she says.

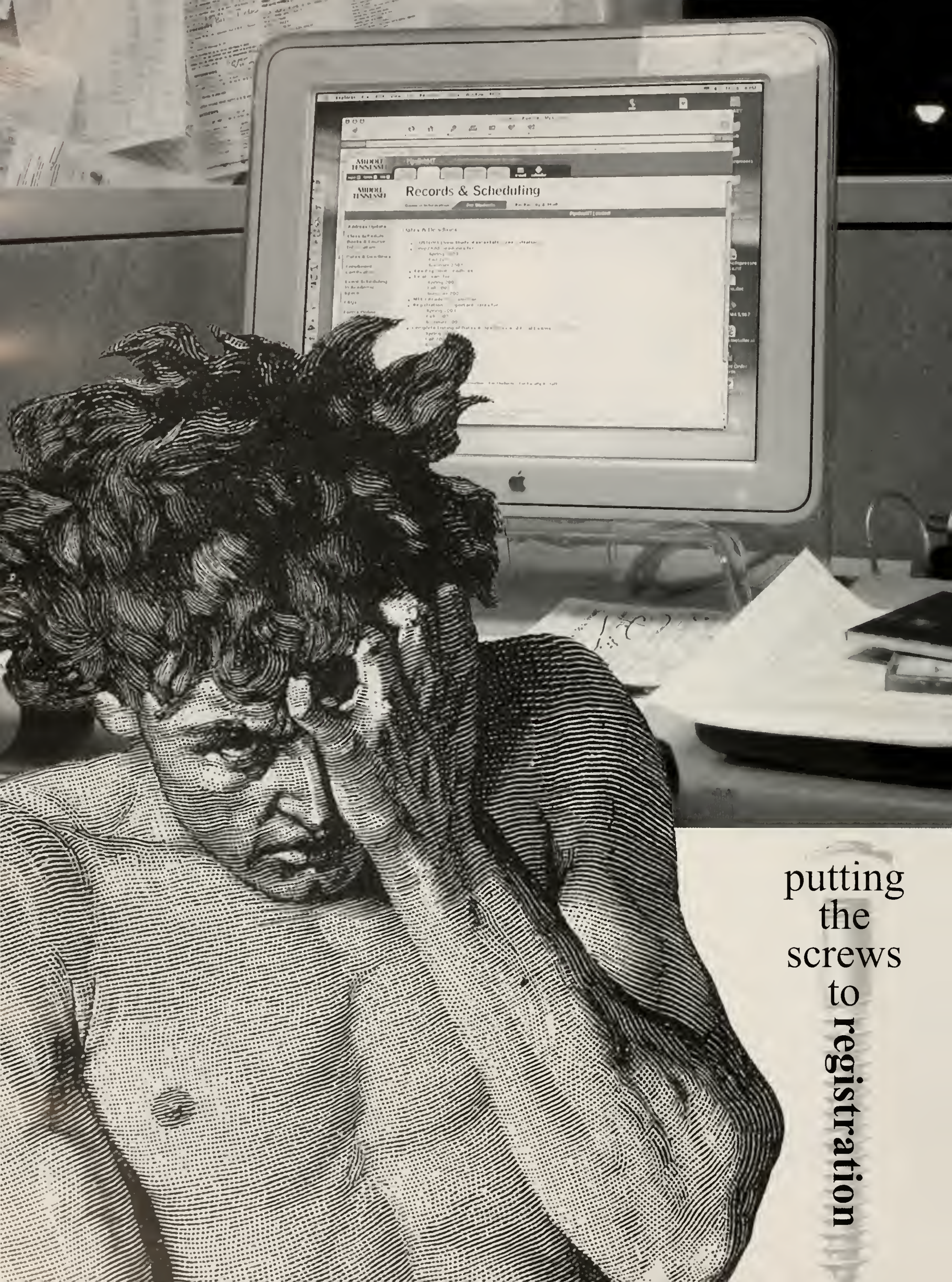
Nonetheless, the majority of those surveyed—74 percent—responded with a resounding "no" when asked if there should be a rule against taking phones to classes. This suggests that students are willing to tolerate the occasional distractions if it means having the freedom they want to carry phones.

MTSU student Lindsey Keen, a Public Relations major from Mt. Juliet, Tenn., is among the 38 percent who find it "very annoying" when cell phones ring in class.

However, Jennifer Devine, a Public Relations major from Nashville, Tenn., is one of the 35 percent who say it is only "slightly annoying" when phones ring in class.

"So many students are working full-time jobs and need cell phones. I don't see a problem with them as long as you use common courtesy," Devine comments.

Based on the survey, the students of MTSU have made their feelings regarding the issue of cell phones in class "clear as a bell," so to speak. In short, students insist that they deserve to have small liberties, such as carrying cell phones whenever and wherever they please, even if it means sporadic in-class interruptions or distractions for other students and teachers.


MIDDLE TENNESSEE
Records & Scheduling

putting the screws to registration

by Robert Evans

Registration is that fun time when you try to plan for your next semester and arrange the perfect schedule that allows you to work, and sleep and I have all the fun they can stand and not suffer the consequences. Finding that perfect schedule, the one so perfect that it's a beautiful work of art, takes time and effort.

You wait as the seconds tick by towards your designated registration time. Slowly, one class after another, your perfect schedule erodes faster than the Grand Canyon during flood season.

OK, it's only sophomore year, thank goodness, but the scene repeats itself a year later. You just chalk it up to being in a competitive major and say, "maybe next year," as if you've missed the playoffs at the end of the baseball season.

So you've reached senior status. Wait...you still can't get into some of those one-class-a-semester electives and just-reward classes you've saved until now, can you?

What's up with that? How can it be possible that you cannot enjoy your senior year or that you might even have to graduate a semester or more later?

It goes without saying that the registration process is a little lopsided. That may be an overstatement, but there are many people in upper-division classes who feel strongly that they have been harmed by the setup of the registration process.

The problem is most apparent when it involves classes in competitive majors where the resources are scarce. Some required classes and electives are only offered once a year, and that's out of the three semesters during which classes are offered.

Matt Bogdan, *Midlander*'s designer, recounted a story explaining how he was unable to get in a class that was only offered once a year. His options? There were none; he could not move on to the next class because he needed this class. It was even more frustrating when he finally got into the class as a senior and there was a sophomore in the class that had trumped over many other students in the same situation.

"I was so pissed off I just got up and walked out of the class, but who am I going to complain to?", asked Bogdan. "It just pissed me off that I wasted a year of my time when some smiling, bubbly sophomore could get in without any problem."

The scene is repeated in many majors, especially in competitive ones such as the recording industry program, which already has a backlog of students. I came upon this subject personally when I too had waited to get into a certain class only to see that there was a second semester sophomore in the class.

"How'd you get in here?", I asked. Then before he could answer, I said, "never mind, presidential scholar right?"

That got the wheels turning in my head. This surely cannot be an isolated incident. Exactly how many people get to register before I do and for what reasons? For this I talked to Cricket Pimentel who runs the registration office in the JUB. She pointed out that "students are assigned a priority registration time to give them the earliest and fairest chance to register for classes before open registration begins."

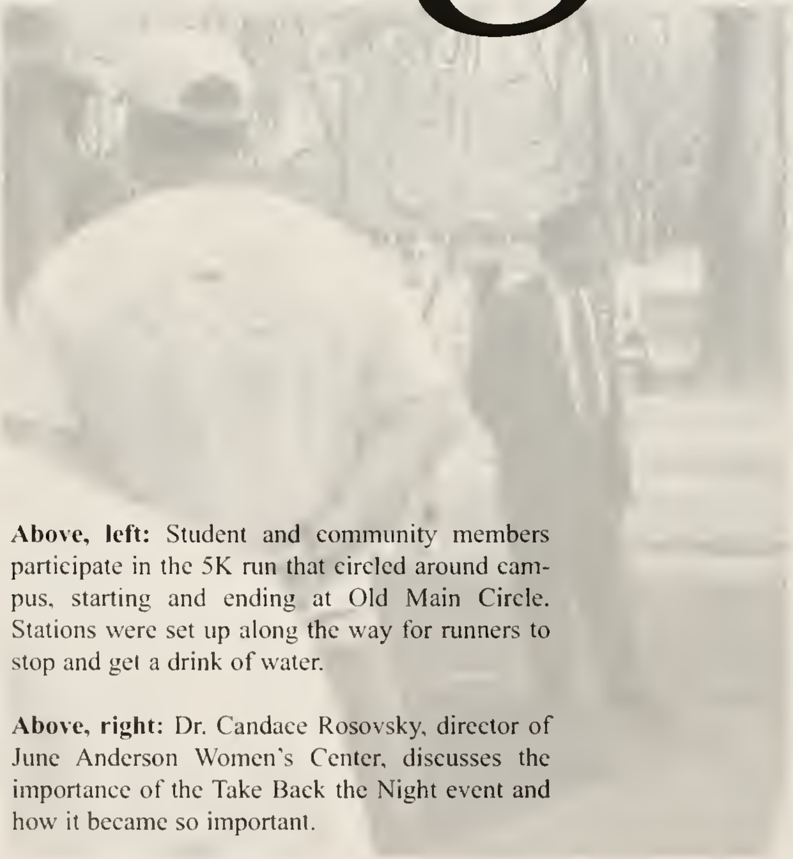
Essentially, priority registration is in place to allow those students already enrolled to re-enroll. Then it is broken down by hours earned. That, then, designates on what day you actually register. For example, during the spring 2002 registration for fall 2002 classes, if you had between 66 and 81 hours, you were assigned the third day of registration. Then you were assigned a time within that day as determined by the hours. The day you register on floats with how many hours earned, of course, but also by how many other students are trying to register. So if you had 70 hours for spring registration you would have registered on that third day, but in the fall period for spring classes you would have been bumped down to the fourth day if you had 70 hours, due to the number of students enrolling for spring classes.

Pimentel could not comment on the privileged registration times given to scholarship recipients, athletes and disabled students. When all of those numbers are added together, over 4,700 students are assigned registration on the first day. That is nearly a quarter of the student body. Of course, not all of those people register…but what if they did? In reality, only about 1,600 of those students register on that first day, and those that don't can register any time after that. The scholarship recipients that receive the early registration times are those with Presidential, Otis floyd and honors scholarships. In my experience, it seems like every fourth person at MTSU is a Presidential Scholar. However, I could not verify that fact as calls and emails to Financial Aid were not returned at the deadline for this story.

Since the majority of those students are not registering anyway, there seems to be a good solution to the problem that would make the process fair. Why not just go ahead and put all priority registrants in at the front of the hours group with which they are supposed to register. This includes athletes and disabled students. My reasoning is this: if you let them register at the head of their respective class rankings, they are still getting what they need without infringing on the needs of others.

One person that would actually comment was Dr. Montgomery, dean of the Honor's College. When informed that it was taking longer for some students to get through school because of this issue, he was really taken aback. "I feel mildly hypocritical here after I've fought–and lost–for privileged registration for honors students. I guess I never fully understood what that meant in terms of equity for the student body."

take back the Night



Above, left: Student and community members participate in the 5K run that circled around campus, starting and ending at Old Main Circle. Stations were set up along the way for runners to stop and get a drink of water.

Above, right: Dr. Candace Rosovsky, director of June Anderson Women's Center, discusses the importance of the Take Back the Night event and how it became so important.

The Chinese say the journey of 10,000 miles begins with but a single step. For the students of MTSU, a 5K Walk began in the same manner Tuesday, April 16, 2002, at the June Anderson Women's Center in honor of sexually assaulted women everywhere.

According to the National Victim Center, the Take Back the Night (TBTN) Walk first began in England in 1877 and was later brought to the U.S. in 1976. Take Back the Night Walk is now an international event, with marches and rallies occurring around the world. It was in Belgium in 1976 when women attending the International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women walked together, holding candles to protest the ways in which violence permeates the lives of women worldwide.

"The walk is a commemorative event celebrated by universities everywhere during Sexual Assault Awareness Week," says Tennisha Smith, coordinator of this year's walk. As part of the worldwide movement to "take back the night," women walk without fear through the night and reclaim the streets, which for many years have been sources of fear and violence, says Smith. The 5K began and ended on Old Main Circle

“Another significant aspect of Take Back the Night is he survivor testimonials,” Smith says. “This serves as a safe place for survivors of sexual violence—as well as affected family and friends—to come forward with testimonials, often sharing their experiences for the first time.”

Moreover, she adds, “There are all kinds of people that have been affected by sexual crimes. It’s kind of crazy because people you would have never thought by looking at them have been sexually assaulted,” says Smith.

Smith also says that the purpose of this year’s Take Back the Night was to advocate zero tolerance for sexual violence against women by doing the following: increasing community awareness of issues concerning violence against women and its relationship with all other forms of discrimination, educating others and ourselves about the nature of violence that is systematically used against women to keep them from feeling safe on the streets and honoring the victims and survivors of abuse.

Walk organizers also hope to to challenge organizations and institutions to implement policies and initiatives that are effective in addressing issues of sexual assault against women and breaking the silence and clearing the conscience of individuals disassociating themselves from the fear of their past and its relationship with dark streets.

MTSU also participated in a Clothesline Project that displayed T-shirts depicting acts of violence against women. Shirts and materials were made available for participants to decorate. The shirts were displayed outside of the James Union Building; the participants remained anonymous.

“The clothesline itself symbolizes society airing its dirty laundry and celebrates women’s strength and courage to overcome the past,” Smith explains. “MTSU is proud and honored to be a part of such an important message for all women,” she adds.

Members of MTSU’s June Anderson Women’s Center also celebrated Sexual Assault Awareness Week by organizing the TBTN march and rally with a band, keynote speakers, a candlelight vigil and refreshments. All proceeds from the TBTN march and rally went to Domestic Violence Inc., notes Smith.

by Melissa Brownell

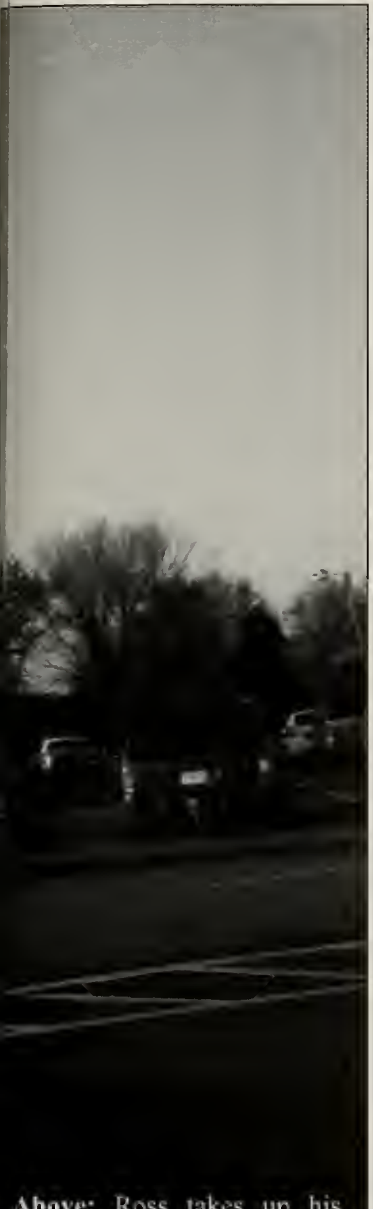
JACK
ROSS
MAYOR
JACK
ROSS
MAYOR
O'Brien

Jack Ross

a look at the man & his story

murfreesboro mayoral candidate

by Robert Evans
photos Matthew H. Starling



Above: Ross takes up his morning post outside Mitchell-Nielson Primary School.

Below: Ross talks to Henry Knox about the election.

"I want to thank all of you for the work you've done. We couldn't have done it without you," Murfreesboro Mayoral candidate Jack Ross says to the crowd gathered around a pickup parked outside the City Café.

"The only thing I'm sorry about is I've let you down."

"NO, NO," responds the crowd in chorus.

"You guys did a great job," Ross continues. "I appreciate it very much. I guess the worst thing is I destroyed City Café's reputation for picking the mayor. That's the hardest part." He smiles, a painful smile, but a positive moment inside the election loss.

"We ran the race the best we could run. We can hold our heads up. One rule in politics is that the best person doesn't always win, but the person with the most votes does."

"Tonight isn't only my loss; it's Murfreesboro's loss."

More than 12 hours earlier, just as the sun was rising, Ross was arriving and picking his spot to greet voters as they made their way to the polling station at Mitchell-Neilson Primary school. Ross took his stance right up next to the marker directly across from the entrance, no chair to sit in, no water bottle to drink from. There he greeted supporters, nodded to well-wishers and gave a polite hello to anyone who walked past.

"APPRECIATE A VOTE MA'AM," bellowed out a campaigner ten feet away, contrasting with the respectful style of Ross.

"This is what you do during election day," Ross says, explaining why he visited and stood at the polling stations. "You've done everything you can. I don't know if it helps, but it makes your supporters feel good."

All morning long supporters walk by and offer their words of encouragement, a pat on the back, a squeeze of the shoulder.

"You run an excellent campaign buddy; I'm proud of you," says one friend.

"Don't work too hard," yells out a man from across the parking lot.

"Nah, I'm just going to be standing around the rest of the day here and there," Ross hollers back.

"Mornin', mornin', this is a good mornin' idn't it?" declares an elderly supporter.

"Some people don't like being hassled," Ross explains. "They don't like being singled out. I try and be low key, (because) you can turn someone off by the way you act. It's really interesting if you watch the dynamics of people. People want to vote and not be bothered."

"Jack, this is the day man; it's the big day," says Sam Ingram, former president of Middle Tennessee State University, as he walks up to shake Ross's hand.

"This is it," replies Ross, a modest, almost shy smile appearing on his face.

"I learned a lot about accounting and business practices from Sam; he was very conservative and watched every penny," Ross says after Ingram walks away.

Without paying too much attention it's easy to miss Ross's slight, but dignified sounding southern accent. It's an accent similar to Jimmy Carter, but Ross is no Democrat, and this election is not even partisan.

"I've been described as a lot of different things," he says. "I consider myself fiscally conservative. A friend called me an old southern Democrat who was fiscally conservative."

To even start politics was a bit of a stretch for Ross. Never having any aspirations to be a politician himself, he always worked in the background for other campaigns."

Ross grew up splitting his time between Winchester in Franklin County and school in Winchester before enlisting in the Air Force in 1967. After leaving the service six years later, Ross returned to Florida —where his parents had retired— and enrolled in a community college. In the spring of 1975, Ross heard about the Learning Resource Center at MTSU and decided to take a trip to check it out. During his visit he ran into Professor Ed Kimbrell.

After the visit, Ross was packing up and moving 600 miles north to Murfreesboro, primarily due to Kimbrell's persuasion.

It wasn't an easy decision, partly because Ross was already married and had a daughter. His wife was attending school; Ross himself was working two or three different jobs. However, some 27 years later, Ross has never regretted the decision. "I came here on a fluke. I had no intention of coming back to Tennessee. But Murfreesboro is a great place to live and raise a family."

Today, Ross is director of Photographic Services at MTSU, and he has served on the City Council of Murfreesboro for eight years. "I was the only member of council that wasn't born and raised here."

In fact, Ross got his start in local politics by having that outsider's perspective.

"Years ago, my wife and I got active in trying to bring recycling to [Rutherford County]," he says. "We attended every council meeting for about a year, just became aware of some things. Issues came up, and there was never a question. There were some questions I wanted to ask, but my wife said that to ask them you have to be a part of the council."

Ross's political career began in 1992 when he ran a grass-roots campaign in the true sense of the term. He was running for city council against incumbents with no budget to his name to even spend on yard signs or campaign materials. He won nonetheless.

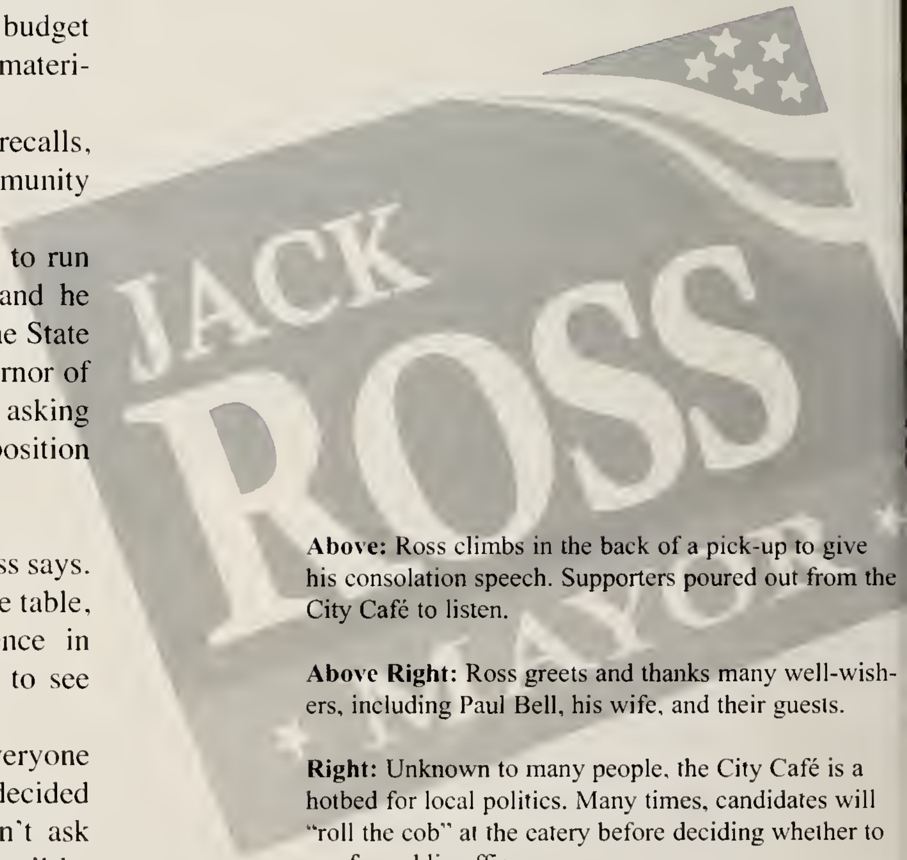
"I found it interesting to be involved," Ross recalls, "to do things, to give something back to the community besides paying taxes."

In 1998, Ross decided on bigger aspirations, to run for mayor, another campaign without advertising, and he only lost by 452 votes. About the same time, long-time State Senator Andy Womack was deciding to run for Governor of Tennessee. Ross received a phone call from Nashville asking if he would be interested in possibly filling the position vacated by Womack.

Nope.

"Here, I can make a difference in my city," Ross says. "Every single day, by what I do and what I bring to the table, I can make a difference. I can't make a difference in Nashville. I don't mind working hard, but I've got to see results, I've got to see something happen."

That stimulus keeps Ross going. It keeps everyone else going as well. The firefighters of Murfreesboro decided to support Ross in his campaign this year. He didn't ask them; they approached him. While Ross was on council he

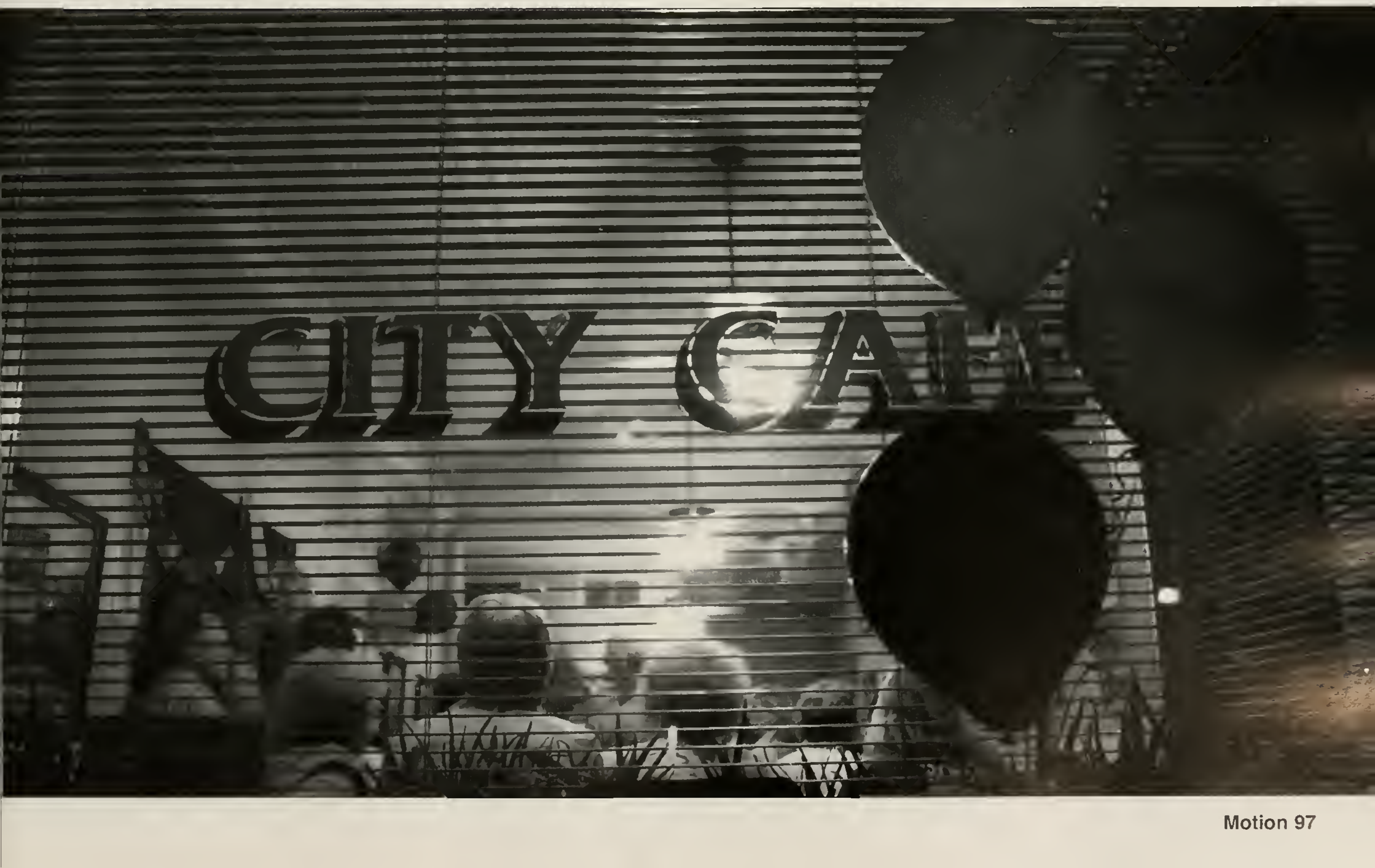


Above: Ross climbs in the back of a pick-up to give his consolation speech. Supporters poured out from the City Café to listen.

Above Right: Ross greets and thanks many well-wishers, including Paul Bell, his wife, and their guests.

Right: Unknown to many people, the City Café is a hotbed for local politics. Many times, candidates will "roll the cob" at the eatery before deciding whether to run for public office.

ROSS


CITY CA

JACK
ROSS
MAYOR

acquired infra-red goggles for the firefighters to use in house blazes. One week later, they saved a life.

As 9:30 a.m. approaches, the sun has been fiercely beating down for two hours already on what will be the hottest day of spring. Ross hasn't moved from his post. The firemen haven't moved from their place on the road, standing, holding signs, waving at passing motorist, hoping at least to motivate them to vote.

It's a scene that repeats at other polling stations throughout the day. Ross heads to the courthouse on the square during the lunch hour to pick up votes there and then other large polling places in the afternoon. After a short stop at home to put on a clean shirt, Ross is off to campaign headquarters at the City Café.

The ballot counting begins at 7:00 p.m., and the results start rolling in soon after. It's a scene that can only be recounted "from the old days," as one radio announcer puts it.

A crowd huddles around a TV monitor outside the election commission, watching the results as they are updated. A band plays on another corner of the square. While it may seem like the old days, it's certainly set in the present.

In front of City Café, a crowd gathers around a pickup truck with the doors and windows open, the radio blaring the results as the broadcaster announces them. The crowd is a mix of firefighters whose skin is turning pink from a long day in the sun, women in sundresses and gentrified southern men in sport coats and ties with straw hats.

Inside the café is much the same, but with less room. A crowd is gathered around a table set with food. Anxious women sit behind them at a table, monitoring and updating the progress of the election on a dry erase board as men look on and comment which precincts Ross should take easily over his opponent.

At this point, Ross is down only 60 votes with two precincts yet to report.

Other men discuss his opponent's tactics in disgust and not quite as diplomatically as Ross would have.

"If you have to go around and smear somebody for a position of power, what kind of person does that say you are?" asks Jack Pennington.

"Not like he had any dirt to dig up on you," stated another voice.

"What we need is a matter-of-fact attitude, that we're not going to stand for it any more," continued Pennington.

Soon, all the precincts have reported. It isn't official yet, but around 8:10 p.m., Ross concedes the election. He has lost by only 199 votes.

He walks around, hugging people, shaking hands, patting backs and consoling people. Even though he is the one who lost the election, he contends that even running in the election wouldn't have been possible without all the help.

The crowd steps back and gives Ross a round of applause as he climbs the same pickup truck people were gathered around earlier to give his speech. They file in and quiet down to listen. Still joking, Ross doesn't miss the opportunity to crack another one.

"They didn't get a lot for their money did they?," he asks as he begins his speech.

Slowly, the crowd departs. There are no sulking faces, no harsh words, no regrets. Sounds of laughter can be heard from those walking away in the distance as the bright purple sky silhouetting the courthouse turns to a black.

At 10:00 p.m., downtown Murfreesboro is empty and quiet. Only the occasional car drives around the square and past the City Café where Jack Ross sits on a bench, talking with a supporter or friend. The café has long closed, and the lights are out inside, but there he sits, illuminated by the porch lights, discussing who knows what.

Maybe next time.

JACK
ROSS
MAYOR

Left and below: Ross works the crowd greeting everyone around the City Café to support him as the election results came in.

Above: Firefighter Roger Toomes pats the shoulder off Ross after the poll results were in.

Pow Wow

Southeastern Native American Festival

"The drum is the heartbeat of the people."
-Doug "Red Fox"-

"It's the music...its gets into you and you can't stay still--like it's nature. That's what makes it so good."

-Clyde "Maize"-

YOU ARE NOT FORGO

Benazir Bhutto's Battle *for democracy*

Exiled Prime Minister of Pakistan brings message to MTSU

by Robert Evans

Despite the years of suffering, despite the years of imprisonment, despite all the years of in-equality and injustice, the exiled Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazhir Bhutto remains an example of grace and compassion through all of her hardships.

Bhutto presented an emotionally charged lecture in Tucker Theater as a part of the Esther Millon Seeman Distinguished Lecture Series in early November.

Bhutto, the first woman to lead the government of an Islamic country, spoke about women and politics in the modem world. It couldn't have been timed better – just the day after elections in this country and shortly after elections in her own country. She was genuinely enthusiastic to discuss the differences between elections in the United States and Pakistan.

"I did watch some of the coverage on election day. I thought what a wonderful gift it is that Americans vote at regular intervals. They're going to have these elections. They're going to be fair, and the mightiest people in the country are going to come down to the most ordinary people in the towns and in the villages or in the farmlands and ask for their vote."

Bhutto went to lengths to explain that most citizens in Muslim countries admire citizens of the United States because they can choose how to live their lives.

"In our country, the people think the elections are rigged, and so they don't come out. Here the voter apathy is different," Bhutto explained. "Here the people feel unmoved by some of the bigger issues and so they stay at home. They think they live in an atmosphere of relative security. They think they can go out and get jobs without the fear of discrimination. That's why so many people in my country admire and respect America. They look upon America as the land of opportunity and the land of freedom, as a land that is in the rule of law, where they can come and work with their own hands and make their lives. I wish we could replicate that back in Pakistan."

For Bhutto, it has been and is going to be an uphill struggle. All of her adult life she has battled to lead a demo-

Above: Bhutto patiently answers questions at a press conference from television news reporters and print media.

Below: Bhutto delivers her speech about the importance of democracy in Pakistan and having women as leaders in the Muslim world.

Opposite Page: Bhutto receives a plaque commemorating her speech at MTSU from June Anderson Women's Center Director Candace Rosovsky.

photos Amy Jones

> *"...as I said in my introduction, once you've been exposed to her, you might never be the same."*
>
> -President McPhee

cratic Muslim nation that is intent on living a life of ignorance. In the past, it has been a military regime that has fought Bhutto and overthrown her government on two separate occasions. Now the threat comes from the Taliban fundamentalist.

One of the major reasons for her treatment is because Bhutto is a woman in a country that stills clings strongly to its fundamentalist past.

"I find it very frustrating, and sometimes, I'm very filled with despair to think the lengths to which people go to treat me because I'm a woman," Bhutto said.

The military regime governing Pakistan has also punished Bhutto's husband for her political views and for what they believe is not making the woman serve a submissive role to a man.

"I've never heard of female spouses being held hostage because of their male spouses' politics. And I think, in a way, it has to do with tradition because, traditionally, women were property of men. So, in a sense, traditionalists hold my husband responsible. They think he is guilty for giving me the freedom to work. And both of us are baffled to see ourselves as independent, separate entities who happen to share a marriage and a family. I don't want him punished because of my views, and I'm sure he doesn't want to be punished either, or he doesn't want to see me punished because of his views."

In fact, her husband is still serving an indefinite sentence in prison in Pakistan. Rather than face prison herself, Bhutto decided to go into exile so that she could lead her political party in absentia and be able to raise her children.

"I'm still living in exile, and I'd love to go back to my own land. I miss my home; I miss my friends and family. It's been a big strain looking after three children and my mother suffering from Alzheimer's, as well as trying to run a political party from overseas. But I've been so lucky in the people who work with me, the members of the Pakistan People's Party. I've really been lucky because they've stayed united, and together we work to fight for what we believe in, which is a modern and democratic Pakistan."

Still, Bhutto leaves her children so that she can carry her message of continuing the cause of democracy for countries that need to develop. She spreads the message of how lucky citizens of democratic countries are and how many freedoms are taken for granted. It is her wish to recreate the democratic atmosphere in Pakistan.

"We can choose the path of the future, or we can choose the path of the past," Bhutto stated. "And it's the path of the future that will bring prosperity."

Above: Bhutto talks with Cummings Hall Resident Assistant Mac Harper at a reception following her speech.

Left: Larry Seeman, son of Esther Millon Seeman, chats with Bhutto about her visit.

Behind the Scenes:

While Bhutto's message was about her plight to see a solidly free and democratic Pakistan, it took several people to bring her to campus.

As part of the the 20th year anniversary of the June Anderson Womens Center, Director Dr. Candace Rosovsky was thinking about ways to create a memorial to remember the founder Esther Millon Seeman.

"Dr. Rosovsky approached the family and asked how we felt about starting a lecture series," said Larry Seeman, son of Esther Seeman. "And of course we were excited, and so it came be, and we are helping with it as well."

Rosovsky also took her idea to Anne Sloan, associate dean of liberal arts, and asked about her opinions. She suggested that Bhutto was going to be in the country and that they should try and contact her.

No other speaker was considered and there was no back up in case she had to cancel. Bringing Prime Minister Bhutto is with the mission of the JAWC, as well as with improving the image of MTSU itself.

"This is, in some ways, completely in line with the tapestry of the center's commitment to bringing examples of leadership among women to campus," said Rosovsky.

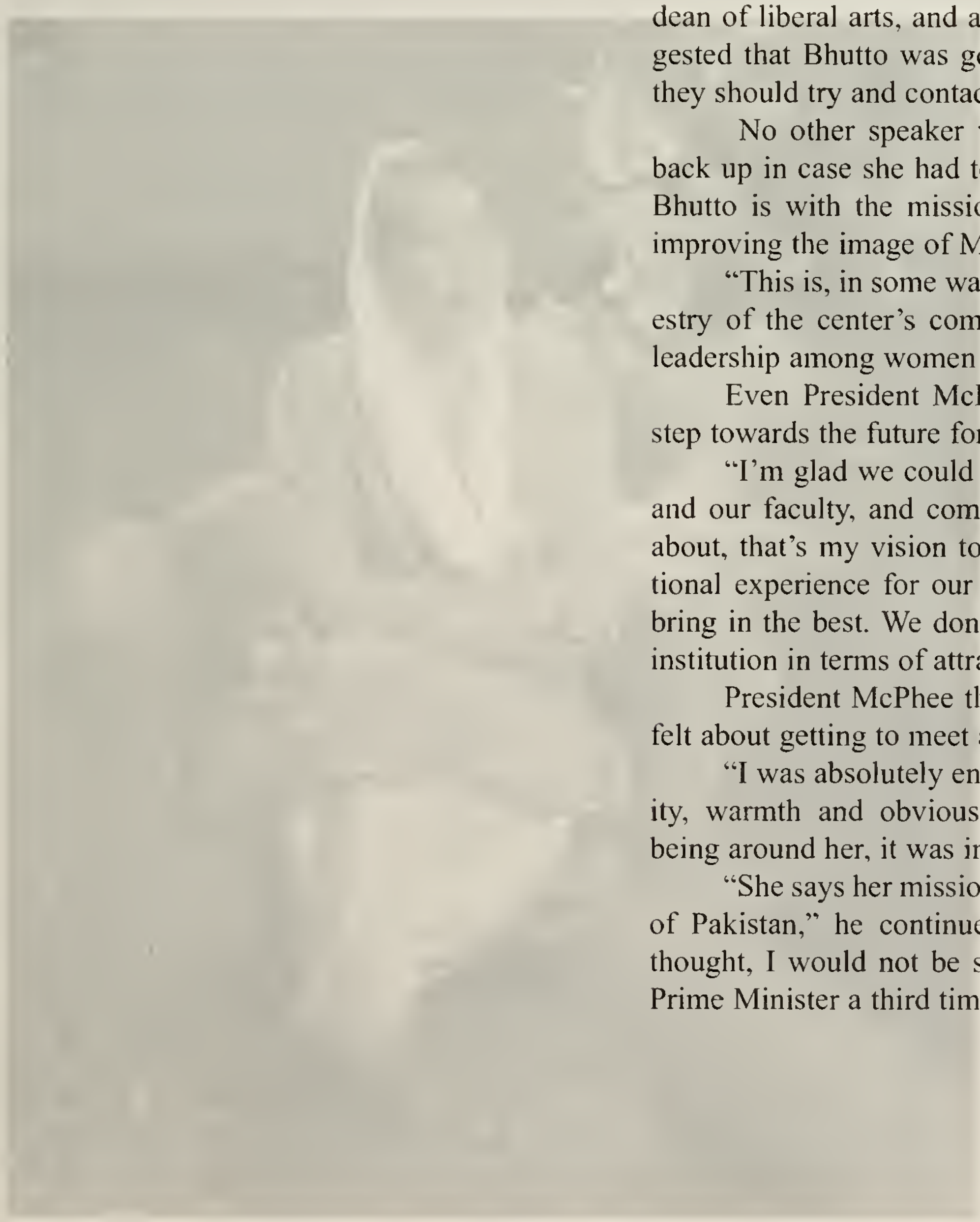
Even President McPhee feels that Bhutto's visit is a step towards the future for the university.

"I'm glad we could bring her here [...] to our students and our faculty, and community. That's what MTSU is all about, that's my vision to elevate the quality of our educational experience for our students and this community and bring in the best. We don't have to take second seat to any institution in terms of attracting the best here."

President McPhee then summed up how many people felt about getting to meet and hear Bhutto speak.

"I was absolutely enthralled by her engaging personality, warmth and obvious intellectual stimulation. Just by being around her, it was incredible," McPhee said.

"She says her mission in life is to be the Prime Minister of Pakistan," he continued. "As I was listening to her, I thought, I would not be surprised if we see her emerge as Prime Minister a third time.



June Anderson Women's Center

"Moments that empower individual women to become their own best selves..." explains Candace Rosovsky, former director of the June Anderson Women's Center, when asked what the center provides to women, "so that they can go and do the things that they want to do, that are satisfying to them and that, in some cases, can change other people's lives."

The June Anderson Women's Center has been providing these moments to the women of MTSU and the Murfreesboro community for 25 years. The center was founded as Women In Service to Education (WISE) in 1977 by 24 women, led by June Anderson, after whom the center was renamed in 1985.

June Anderson was a high school teacher who won the Tennessee Distinguished Science Teacher Award before she began teaching at MTSU in 1958. Among her many other accomplishments, she testified in regards to the gender discrimination that was occurring at MTSU and, along with WISE, helped open the first daycare on campus. She also brought the first National Women's Week celebration to MTSU and—until her death in 1984—ran the first of many campus conferences regarding women's issues.

Dr. Candace Rosovsky, former director of June Anderson Women's Center, introduces Bhutto before the former prime minister's speech in early November. Rosovsky retired from her position at the end of December. **photo by Amy Jones**

Rosovsky came from Seattle to be the director of the JAWC in 1992. Her job included being responsible for the budget and staff and collaborating with members of the campus and the community to come up with creative ideas. Rosovsky also brought in many of the programs that the JAWC is known for today.

One of these programs is our celebration of National Women's History Month, which is a collaborative project across campus. The theme of National Women's History Month varies from year to year, with speakers and projects that go along with the theme. The JAWC first brought the National Women's History celebration to MTSU in 1977 and has been participating in it ever since.

Because African-American History Month is in February, and Women's History Month is in March, the first fades into the second, and the committees for each do a lot together as well as separately to educate the students of MTSU about women and African-American history.

The JAWC also participates in Sexual Assault Awareness Week. During this week, the center undertakes multiple projects outlining safety issues and organizes many activities that occur throughout the week, such as speakers, interactive plays and benefit concerts. Last year alone, the JAWC raised $1,000 for the Domestic Violence Programs.

The Clothesline Project is one of the more unique programs held during Sexual Assault Awareness Week. This program began when women on Cape Cod grew tired of people hiding domestic violence as a dirty and shameful secret. They asked women who were survivors of domestic abuse to help design shirts that had to do with stopping violence, and they hung these shirts on clotheslines. All of the women who design these shirts remain completely anonymous. The Clothesline Project has since become nationwide, and the JAWC has nearly 100 shirts now.

Take Back the Night (TBTN) brings a conclusion to Sexual Assault Awareness Week. It is a nationwide event during which women walk around campus or around town with buttons and posters promoting public awareness. The night also showcases performances and speeches by local musicians, speakers and survivors of violence, followed by a candlelight vigil.

The JAWC is involved in other programs as well. An Income of Your Own is for high school girls interested in entrepreneurship. The JAWC invites female business owners from the community to share a luncheon with the girls. Later, the women break off into groups with the aspiring entrepre-

The June Anderson Women's Center holds their staff meetings every Tuesday afternoon. Clockwise from the top are Chastity Hyde, Tennisha Smith, Amy Jones, Charisse Wooding, Mary Ann Guiliano and Chasidi Cannon. Everyone that works at the center has a special project they are responsible for, and the meeting helps them discuss planning or organizational issues that they might be having problems with. **photo by Megan Allender**

neurs. Rosovsky says that the purpose is to demystify college so that it isn't as scary. This fear often stems from the fact that many students are first-generation college students.

Another program sponsored by the center is the race and gender lecture series. Rosovsky says she believes that the JAWC has needed—and still needs—to become more aware of race and gender issues. The program has had lecture series dealing with topics ranging from hair to women's spirituality. Other programs include Building Connections, a luncheon for female faculty and administrators; Expanding Your Horizons, a program in which up to 300 girls attend, listen to a keynote speaker and then break up into workshops dealing with the fields of study that interest them; and a free legal clinic, which is held on the last Thursday of every month.

In addition to offering programs, the JAWC houses a library, which contains books on many subjects from abortion to spirituality. The center runs an automated hotline—898-JAWC—where women who have been harassed or raped can get information about services available to them.

"The women's center is a safe space [for] anyone who has been sexually harassed or has any complaints, [for them, the center is] not the official place, but we keep everything confidential. Able, disabled, black, white, Asian, Latino, straight, gay—they are welcome in this center, and we are happy to have them," says Rosovsky. She adds that males are welcome to come as well if they are interested in gender issues: "We are all in this together."

by Jessy Yancey

Issues on Campus

Whether Students Realized Them or Not

This van has been parked in the same space behind the James Union Building for six months without being moved. It is clearly a damaged vehicle, but since it has a valid green permit, it doesn't matter.
photo by Robert Evans

Some students found it hard to balance homework, classes and a social life, along with getting a decent night's sleep. This student lost the battle with trying to stay awake during one of her classes.
photo by Elizabeth Gregory

Top, Left: Even though the university and state funding paid for the $1.4 million Quadrangle in front of the library, it still ended up looking like every other building around campus. **Top, Right:** Catching the bus could cause some students to wait for thirty minutes or more. Rather than wait with nothing to do, students often opted to just walk across campus. **Bottom:** The philosophy department in the James Union Building expereinced some inconvenince during Christmas break when a work crew came through to pull up the carpet in search for asbestos. Even though other offices on the floor were assured that no asbestos was present, these signs were still posted for a couple of days.
photos by Robert Evans

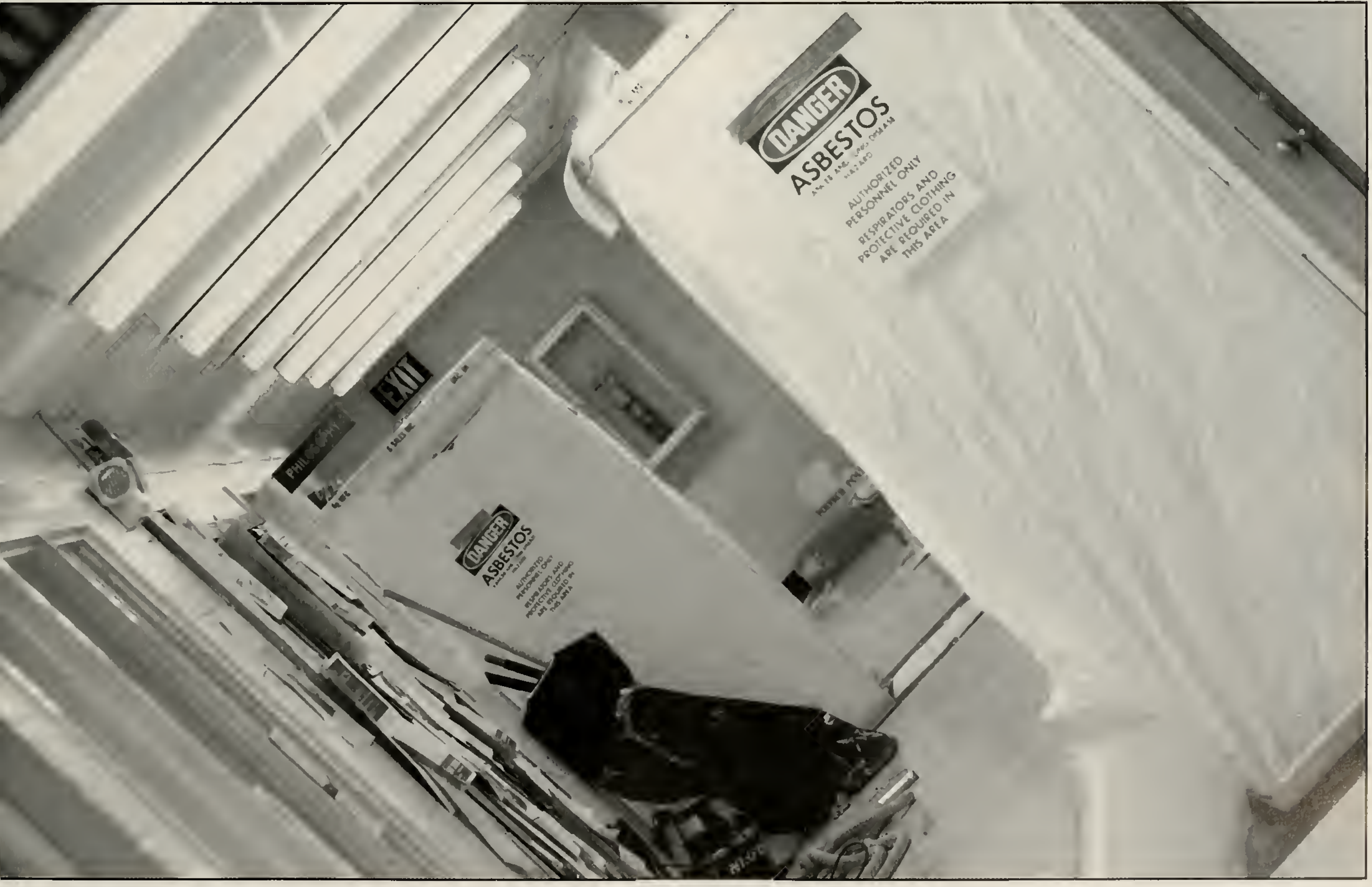

DANGER
ASBESTOS
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY
RESPIRATORS AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING ARE REQUIRED IN THIS AREA
EXIT
DANGER
ASBESTOS

photo by Megan Allender

Top: A student hurries in between classes to get a quick drink from a soda machine at Peck Hall. Even students who were trying to eat healthier succumbed to the snack machines every once in a while. **Bottom, left:** Computer labs around campus were always filled with students wanting to work on homework or print out papers for their next class. During mid-term and final exam weeks, the library computer labs were always full and had students waiting to get a computer to use. **Bottom, right:** The construction on the new honors college building and different areas around campus had students taking detours around the sites.

photo by Megan Allender

photo by Matthew H. Starling

photo by Matthew H. Starling

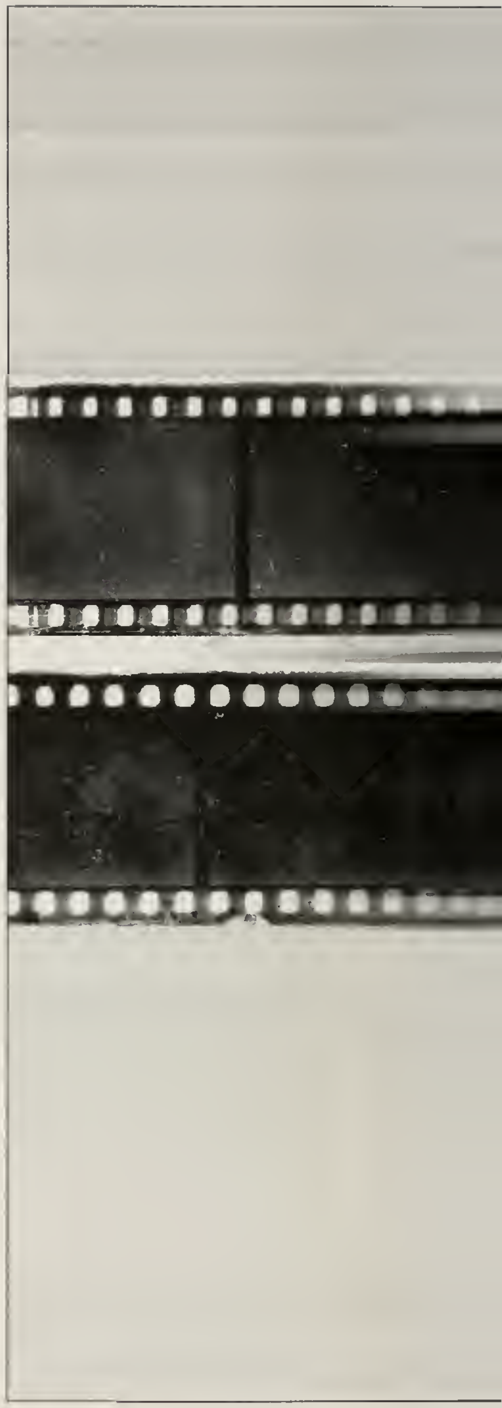
photo by Jeff Harding

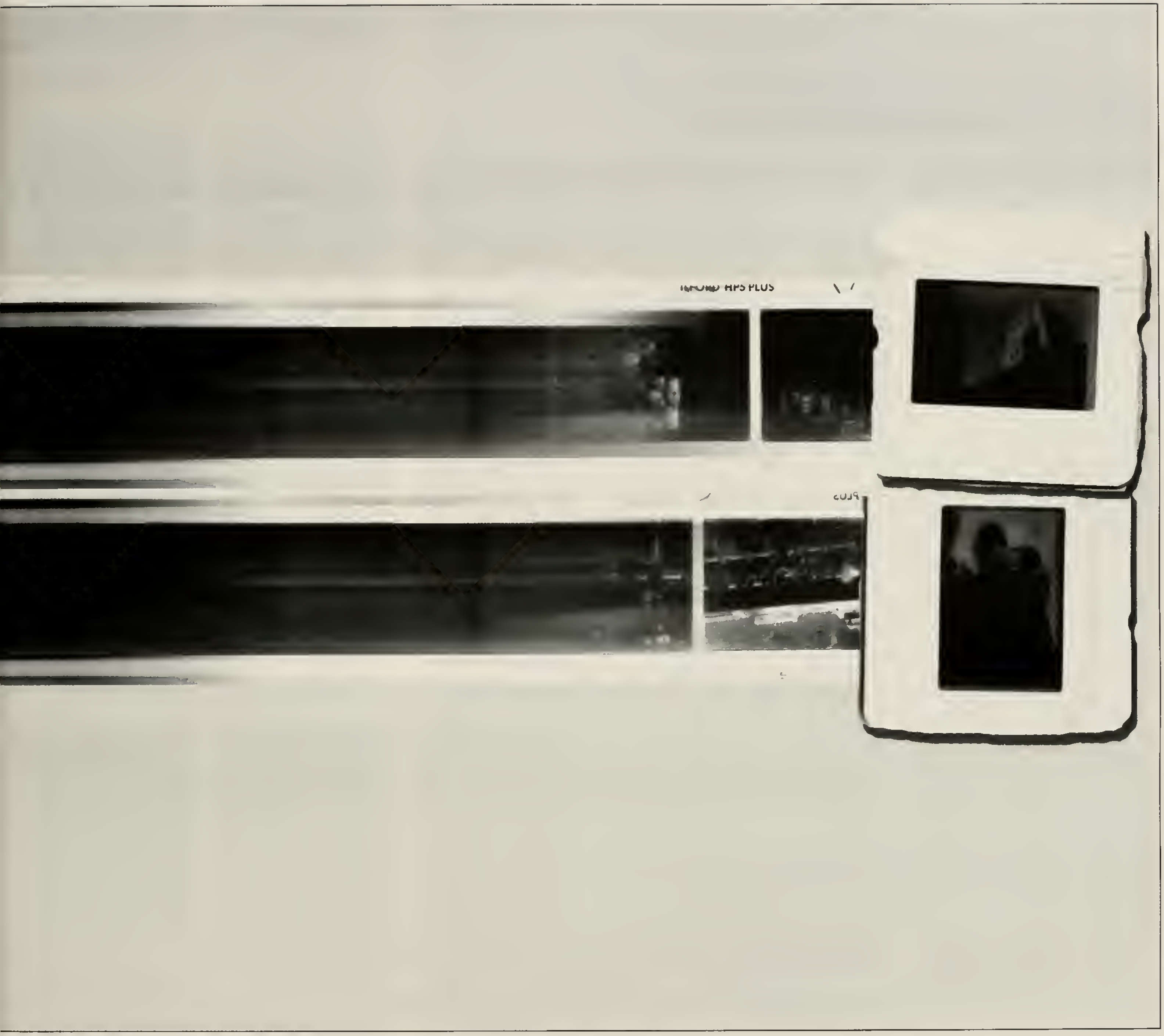
Left: Dorm life could be a bit hard on the students who weren't used to being awakened in the middle of the night by laughter or loud music. **Top:** A Jim Beam liquor bottle was found on campus during the first big snow of winter. Even though MTSU is supposed to be a dry campus, students still snuck liquor and beer in their rooms and classes. **Bottom:** A book-mobile sits parked outside the Kirksey Old Main building at the end of the fall semester waiting for students to bring books to return. Selling books back could be a frustrating time for many students who expected more money but received the bare minumim for their books.

photo by Megan Alexander

perspectives

The eye sees what it brings the power to see.
-Thomas Carlyle




ILFORD HP5 PLUS

seniors

John Adams
Richmond, VA

Farrah Albertie
Murfreesboro, TN

Sarah Alexander
Franklin, TN

Cynthia Allison
Nashville, TN

Joel Alsup
Chattanooga, TN

Shannon Aplin
Murfreesboro, TN

David Axelrod
Murfreesboro, TN

Stacey Ayers
Murfreesboro, TN

Micheal Baer
Lebanon, TN

Bradley Baisley
West Islip, NY

Rebecca Barnett
Germantown, TN

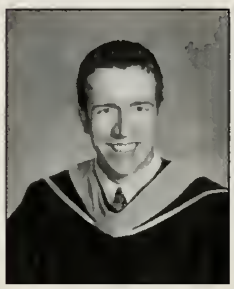
Ginny Barton
Tullahoma, TN

Tracey Biggs
Goodlettsville, TN

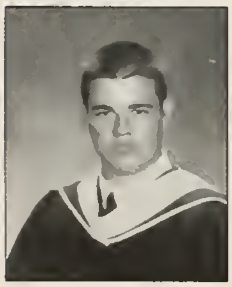
Erica Bilbrey
Kingston Springs, TN

Susan Bottoms
Summertown, TN

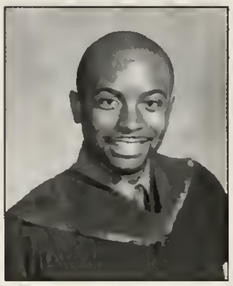
Amanda Bowen
Burlington, IA


John Boyd
Mt. Juliet, TN

Michele Broderick
Murfreesboro, TN


Michael Bryant
Murfreesboro, TN

Tanja Buchheim
Landshut Germany


Luther Burke
Knoxville, TN

Erica Butler
Murfreesboro, TN

Jessica Campbell
Murfreesboro, TN

Anna Carl
Murfreesboro, TN

Cindy Charles
Murfreesboro, TN

James Cheeves
Murfreesboro, TN

Samantha Cherry
Murfreesboro, TN

Priscilla Chumley
Murfreesboro, TN

Chance Church
Columbia, TN

Christa Clancy
Antioch, TN

Jamie Arendall
Madison, TN

Robyn Arnold
Lewisburg, TN

Christopher Bass
Nashville, TN

Zachary Bennett
Murfreesboro, TN

Ashley Brooks
Medon, TN

Jennifer Bruetting
Memphis, TN

Johnny Cearley
Murfreesboro, TN

Stephen Chambers
Hartsville, TN

Tricia Cleghorn
Antioch, TN

Tracy Clemons
Murfreesboro, TN

A student joins in the festivities that accompanied the AIDS Quilt exhibition.

Victoria Smith Has Been In *Motion* Her Whole Life

by Brendan McKennedy

But her trip to Ghana last fall was different.

It was definitely something that I can't even compare to any of the other traveling I've done," says Smith, 23. "Everywhere else, I still had luxuries you could get in the United States. In Ghana, the one thing I missed more than anything was cheese. You just could not get cheese anywhere."

An international relations major, Smith spent four months in the western African nation, teaching English as a part of MTSU's Work Abroad program.

Smith became interested in Africa, she says, when she joined MTSU's Model United Nations team.

"I was stuck doing the country of Nigeria, and I thought that I was going to hate it. I ended up loving it, and I ended up loving African foreign policy. I decided that Africa was going to be my concentration," she says.

Most international relations majors concentrate on one country. But Smith has loftier plans.

That kind of ambition – taking on a continent instead of just one country – seems to drive all of Smith's efforts.

"You know, when you find something that interests you, you sort of go with it. I just started reading a lot of books and I decided that I really wanted to go to Africa," she says.

But that wasn't Smith's only reason for leaving the United States. She says her opinion of U.S. foreign policy had given her an all-around dim view of her country.

"I was sort of like an expatriate. I was leaving America to go to Africa because I couldn't stand America," she says.

So she postponed her May 2001 graduation and became MTSU's first international relations major to work abroad for course credit.

Smith taught English for three grade levels in Ghana's junior secondary school, or JSS, which she likens to American junior high school with a wider age range.

"It was probably ages 14 all the way to 20," she says.

Smith, then 21, had trouble teaching the highest grade level, JSS3. "There were students there that were taller than me and looked older than me," she says. "There just wasn't any respect there because they knew I was really close to the same age as them [...]. They were just completely rowdy and crazy."

But, she says, she had more success with her younger students. "JSS and JSS2 were my absolute favorites. They really got into it," Smith says. She gave spelling lessons by teaching the students how to play the game hangman. "And we would have spelling bees," she says. "I'd give out prizes. Candy and small trinkets mean so much more to them than it would to a typical junior high

Victoria Smith taught English to JSS1 at Christ the Prince of Peace elementary and junior secondary school in Ghana. **photo provided**

schooler here."

While she taught them English, the students gave Smith lessons on their native language. Ghana is an English-speaking country, but "there are five different regions with at least five different languages in each of those regions," Smith says.

"During the recess period and lunch, [the students] would all crowd around my desk, and I would ask them how to say things, and they would tell me, and I would just write it down the way it sounded," she adds.

The language Smith's students taught her was that of the Volta region; she spent her semester in the region's capital town, Ho.

"It is the smallest capital in Ghana," she says. "It has one traffic light. You could walk around the entire town – which we did a lot. We had no vehicles or anything, and we would have to walk back and forth to whatever schools we were teaching at."

Vehicular transportation wasn't the only amenity she lacked. Throughout her stay, Smith slept on a foam rubber mattress pad. She adds that she and a few of her co-workers "lived in a room with three other girls, and we lived with this huge family."

Her host, a program director for Cross Cultural Solutions, the organization through which she arranged her trip, had three wives. Polygamy, Smith explains, is common in Africa – and although only his second wife lived in the house, "Every single one of his kids was there – and nephews and nieces," Smith says. "So we had tons of students there that we could hang out with and play with all the time.

"It was just like a big huge intermixed family between white American kids – a lot of the volunteers were young – and his family," she says.

Her meals, however, were prepared for her by Cross Cultural Solutions.

"Everything was sanitized really well so we wouldn't get sick," she says. But she got sick anyway; on their own, Smith and the other volunteers sampled the local cuisine. "We would eat food on the streets just to get more out of the environment," she says.

And food wasn't the only danger.

"I think all of us got malaria at least once," she says.

Smith describes all of this in a matter-of-fact tone. Rather than bemoaning the difficulties she experienced in Ghana, Smith seems to have gleaned lessons from foregoing comforts.

"When I was in Ghana, I realized I was so lucky," she says. "The opportunities I have – to have an education, even though I'm not from a wealthy family – [are] just things that I never really appreciated until I was in a position where I got to see other people that didn't really have anything."

And, Smith says, the experience helped rectify her view of her country.

Although she still disagrees with much of U.S. foreign policy, Smith explains, "I love the United States. I think I used to be anti-American. But when I went to Africa, I realized that was definitely not the case."

Melissa Coker
Gallatin, TN

Garrison Collins
Georgetown, TN

Jeremy Dahmen
Murfreesboro, TN

Anne Dalia
Maryville, TN

Tara Echoles
Jackson, TN

Nikita Edwards
Chattanooga, TN

Blair Fleming
Brentwood, TN

Micah Forrest
Murfreesboro, TN

Allison Glover
Simpsonville, SC

Mely Gonzalez
Antioch, TN

Waiting for the Raider Xpress can sometimes take up to 15 minutes.

seniors

Amy Conner
Shelbyville, TN

Richard Conner
Old Hickory, TN

Kathleen Conway
Murfreesboro, TN

Angela Cook
Brentwood, TN

Ralph Corrin
Murfreesboro, TN

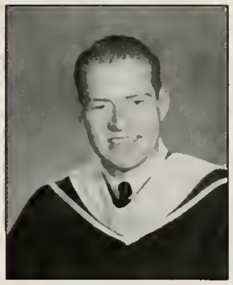
Kelly Cunningham
McMinnville, TN

Shawn Davis
Lewisburg, TN

Samuel Dickinson
Gulfport, MS

Bethany Dorris
Gallatin, TN

Edward Drumm
Murfreesboro, TN


Bobby Duke
Lavergne, TN

Mark Duvall
Franklin, TN

William Eimicke
Mt. Pleasant, TN

Christopher Evans
Murfreesboro, TN

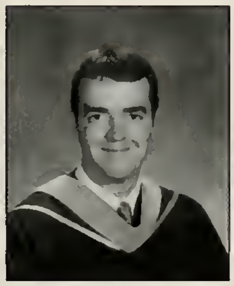
Larry Ezzelle
Murfreesboro, TN

Mindy Faddis
Knoxville, TN

Linda Blair Feagans
Murfreesboro, TN

Elizabeth Fedynich
Smyrna, TN

Lataya Franklin
Murfreesboro, TN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Nicole Garden
Lebanon, TN

Barbara Gardner
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Robert Gordon
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Robert Graham
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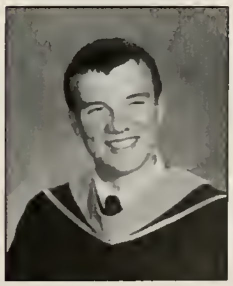
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Laura Gunter
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Annie Hammontree
Dalton, GA

Traci Hampton
Murfreesboro, TN

Sarah Harris
Murfreesboro, TN

Fredrick J Hart
Murfreesboro, TN

Rachel Haslam
Bon Aqua, TN

Amber Hastings
Spring Hill, TN

Antonia Hayes
Nashville, TN

Grace Henriksen
Murfreesboro, TN

Terry Herndon
Atwood, TN

Michelle Hesseltine
Antioch, TN

Malaysha Hickerson
Manchester, TN

Emily Hiett
Kingston Springs, TN

Aaron Hines
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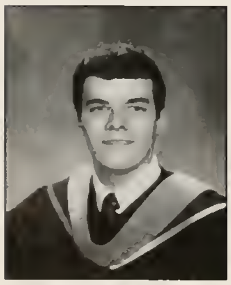
Julie Holloway
Murfreesboro, TN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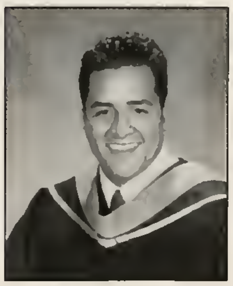
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Laura Howard
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seniors

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Blaine Huffman
Dyersburg, TN

Nancy Hughes
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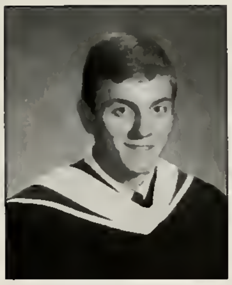
Tiffany Ingram
Arrington, TN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Audrey James
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Dawn Johnson
Spring Hill, TN

Gidget Johnson
Cornersville, TN

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Crystal Jones
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Kelly Jones
Murfreesboro, TN

Michael Jones
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Robert Jordan III
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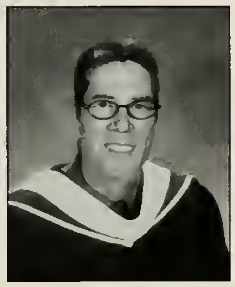
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Maria Kalbaugh
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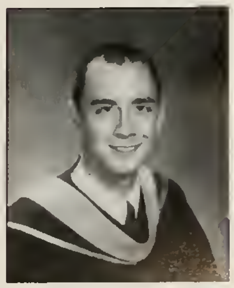
Katayun Kamyab
Nashville, TN

Paul Kelly
Rockvale, TN

Mary Kelton Old
Hickory, TN

Laurel Kemp
Murfreesboro, TN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Greg Kirven
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Lareisa Ligon
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Indira Maharaj
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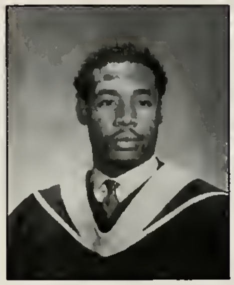

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Leita McKay
Germantown, TN

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Douglas Moore
Nashville, TN

Shannon Moore
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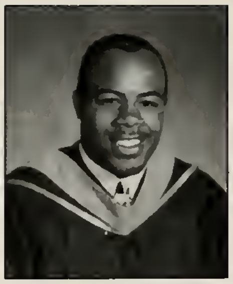
Latoya Knox
Murfreesboro, TN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Cuyler Lanier III
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Franklin, TN

Jeremiah Lawson
Murfreesboro, TN

Scott Leblanc
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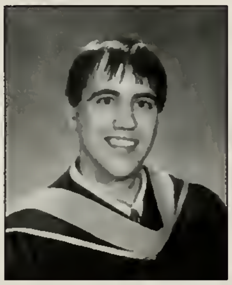
Ashley Lillard
Franklin, TN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Tracy Lingo
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Katie Lovett
Lewisburg, TN

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Jotrone Marable
Murfreesboro, TN

Kimberly Marshall
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Clarence McFerren II
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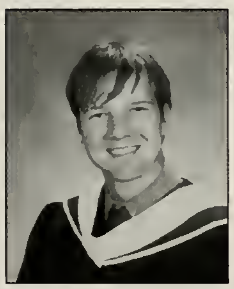
Sarah McIntosh
Clifton, TN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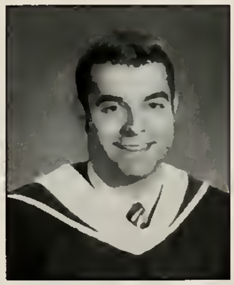
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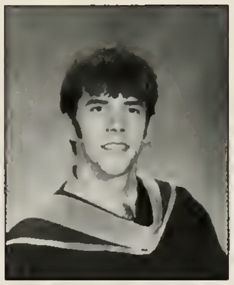
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Union City, TN

Amanda Monroe
Pleasant View, TN

Courtney Moore
West Point, TN

Misty Morgan
Tullahoma, TN

Skylor Morgan
Waynesville, MO

Sarah Morris
Kingsport, TN

Christopher Mullin
Hermitage, TN

Christian Nicole Mullins
Thompson Station, TN

Bryan Nale
Knoxville, TN

SHANNON DEVIDO

by Andre Woods

photo by Rebecca Pickering

There once was a saying that big miracles happen in small places. If you're a believer of that, then you can believe that big miracles are happening within a small woman named Shannon DeVido. This charismatic young woman is gaining serious recognition for her powerful voice and her dramatic abilities. Following a little more than two years of nonstop performances, Shannon is making a name for herself here at MTSU and nationally.

When asked when she became interested in the arts, Shannon says it began when she was born. She accredits her mother for giving her such a big love for the arts. "My mom was an actress and singer all throughout high school and college but gave it up after college. Yet, she kept the love of it, and when I got involved, she encouraged me because of her deep love of the arts. She knew how much she enjoyed doing it and knew that I would too. I am so grateful she did because I truly cannot imagine my life without the arts."

A native of Holland, Pa., the recording industry major arrived at MTSU in Fall 2001 and instantly got involved in activities such as Alpha Psi Omega theater society, MTSU Women's Choir and the Student Programming Concert Committee.

While devoting all this time to extracurricular activities, she was still able to maintain a 4.0 average. In the Fall of 2002, Shannon played the role of Yente, the matchmaker, in the MTSU production of "Fiddler on the Roof." She did all of this while confined to a wheelchair.

Shannon suffers from spinal muscular atrophy, a form of muscular dystrophy, which makes her achievements all the more amazing and wonderful. Shannon's disability definitely does not hold her back from any goals that she plans to accomplish: "I don't let it, and if I did, I would be in my room all the time bored out of my mind. I hate being bored; I hate it more than anything."

Shannon's talent and determination led her to enter an international singing competition for soloists. She sent in a demo and was asked to come perform the song at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. Shannon won the Young Soloists award and was asked to come back the following year to give a 30 minute concert at the Kennedy Center. When the coordinator for the talent portion of the U.S. Open Tennis Tournament was looking for someone to sing the opening song, Shannon DeVido's name surfaced again. In no time, Shannon was headed for New York to sing "America the Beautiful" for the U.S. Open.

Shannon plans to graduate in the Spring of 2004 and wants to go into Artist Management. But, Shannon doesn't plan to manage just anyone. She claims to be very selective and very critical, and that is how she plans to choose her artists. "I'll take anyone I believe in, I truly believe that if you have a gift and you truly believe in yourself, you will have good people behind you," spoken like the true artist that Shannon DeVido is. Either as an artist or a manager, Shannon has many more miracles in store.

For the typical college student, music is a part of everyday life. It fills our ears first thing in the morning when the alarm clock goes off. It blasts from stereos at the gym and in our cars. It even pumps through McCallie. But for junior Erin Enderlin, music is far more sacred than that. It is the driving force in her life.

Erin has been writing songs since she was a fourth-grader. Drawn toward the storytelling aspect of songwriting, she quickly fell in love with country music, a style in which spinning a good yarn is of paramount value.

To Erin, songwriting was the best way to release her emotions and express her thoughts. "I remember the day I picked up the guitar and started writing," she reminisced. "I wanted to stand out."

Erin began writing songs that held meaning for her, drawing from both her own life experiences as well as from books, the news and people she has known. Though many of her songs deal with heartache and loss, these themes allow her to connect deeply with her listeners. These songs, along with being deeply personal, are astoundingly uplifting and spellbinding.

At age 16, Erin performed her first show in front of 700 people, and though she was somewhat frightened, she was also exhilarated. From that point on, Erin knew what she would be doing for the rest of her life. She began writing extensively and, to date, has composed over 160 songs.

Not long after she began writing music, Erin decided to relocate from her home in Conway, Ark., to the Nashville area. Moving here has offered her precious opportunities to perform and to write with some of the best local songwriters and to get involved with big names in Nashville.

Erin appears to be on the road to success. Though she will continue to write indefinitely, she plans to shift her focus from being a writer to being a full-blown artist. Her main goal, however, is the preservation of the country genre. "I want to entertain, help other artists and actively participate in keeping the music alive," she envisions.

By performing new writers' songs, encouraging others to develop their talents and never stopping, Erin plans to change country music for the better. "If your work is easy, it is boring. It's challenge that keeps me excited."

photo by Rebecca Pickering

by Jason Manley

ERIN ENDERLIN

seniors

Mary-Marie Nevels
Nashville, TN

Joanna Nichols
Pinson, AL

Rachel Nickens
Murfreesboro, TN

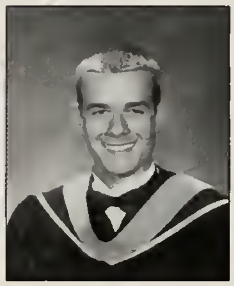
April Novak
Henderson, TN

Tammy Nunez
Nashville, TN

Ugo Nwogbo
Nashville, TN

Tera Overcast Davis
Shelbyville, TN

Heather Owen
Pisgah Forest, TN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Murfreesboro, TN

Emily Parker
Lebanon, TN

Peggy Parker
Englewood, CO

Todd Partain
Athens, TN

Jason Perkins
Bristol, TN

Angela Perrault
Murfreesboro, TN

Kristine Phillips
Ashland City, TN

Patrick Phiri
Antioch, TN

Delvin Pikes
Louisville, KY

Lisa Poepsel
Murfreesboro, TN

Art Quantstrom
Murfreesboro, TN

Brian Ragsdale
Primm Springs, TN

Christopher Rainwater
Borough, TN

Faye Ralston
Winchester, TN

Stacey Rambo
Collegedale, TN

Lillian Ray
Franklin, TN

Erin Rice
Mt Juliet, TN

Stacy Rice
Franklin, TN

Wendy Rice
Cleveland, TN

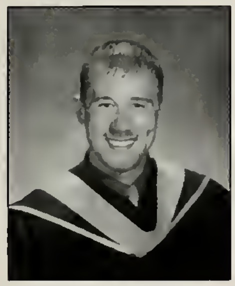
Allison Richards
Smyrna, TN

Christiana Robinson
Shelbyville, TN

Rick Rodriguez
Murfreesboro, TN

Olubunmi Onadeko
Nashville, TN

Wendy O'Neal
Columbia, TN


Dennis Payne
Murfreesboro, TN

Kerri Payne
Murfreesboro, TN

John Polk
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Christle Price
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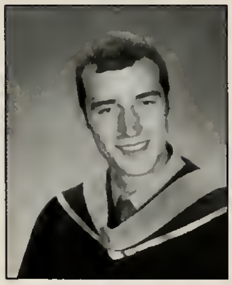
Olga Reddout
Nashville, TN

Stephany Reid
Murfreesboro, TN


Robert Rogers
Columbia, TN

Manuel Roman
Hermitage, TN

MOCHA JAVA
MOUNTAIN BLEND
DECAF DUTCH CHOCOLATE
DUTCH CHOCOLATE

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

seniors

Tara Ross
Murfreesboro, TN

Rachael Sain
Nashville, TN

Janie Sanders
Tullahoma, TN

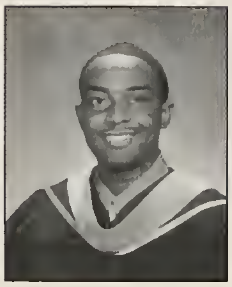
Stephanie Saujon
Murfreesboro, TN

Michael Scales
Murfreesboro, TN

Ashley Scott
Lebanon, TN

Rebecca Scott
Estill Springs, TN

Sherry Scott
Murfreesboro, TN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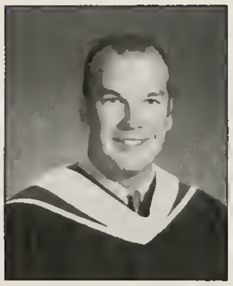
Jennifer Shaw
Brentwood, TN

Cassandra Shipman
Antioch, TN

Keysha Shirley
Murfreesboro, TN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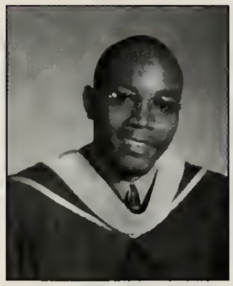
Richard Silk
Murfreesboro, TN

Jenny Skeen
Murfreesboro, TN

Julie Skipper
Nashville, TN

Bertha Smith
Tullahoma, TN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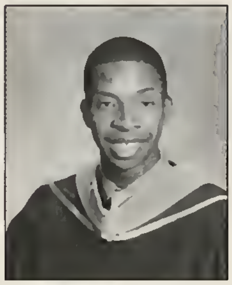
Erica Smith
Hermitage, TN

Joseph Smith
Watertown, TN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Ashanti Smoot
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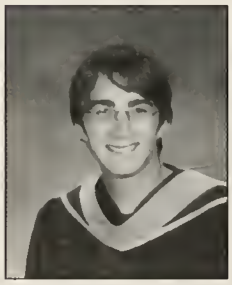
Kristin Stedman
Columbia, TN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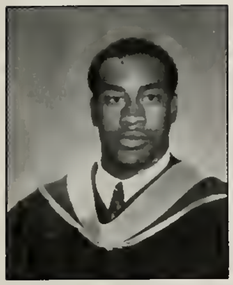
Larry Taft
Nashville, TN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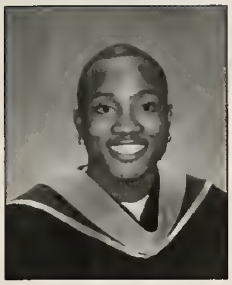
April Tarkington
Columbia, TN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Murfreesboro, TN

Rebecca Towle
Friendsville, TN

Jose Valdovinos
Murfreesboro, TN

Grace Venable
Murfreesboro, TN

Ladonna Vestal
Mt. Pleasant, TN

JR Wade
Glasgow, KY

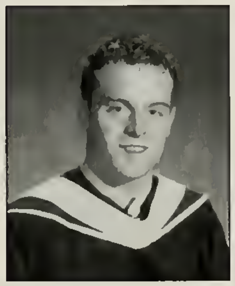
Heather Warmack
Murfreesboro, TN

Melissa Warren
Hendersonville, TN

Karyn Weaver
Murfreesboro, TN

Megan Westbrook
Signal Mountain, TN

Jeffrey Whidby
Nashville, TN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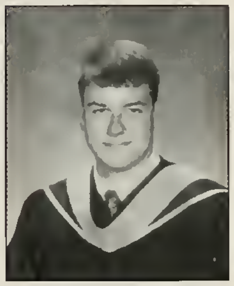
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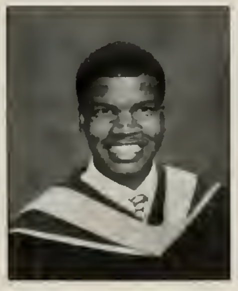
Heather Willis
Waverly, TN


Ceylon Wise
Westerville, OH

Selina Woodruff
Smyrna, TN

Tara York
Franklin, TN

RUGBY

Middle Tennessee State University senior Cayo Nicolau can boast of a competitiveness and athletic ability that have led him to accomplish goals he only dreamed about as a child.

"During my childhood, I played many sports including basketball, jiu-jitsu [becoming the state champion], volleyball, soccer, tennis [two-time state champion at the age of 9] and water polo [selected to be part of the state team at 13]," says Nicolau.

Nicolau, now 24, began playing rugby at the age of 14 while still living in Brazil, his home country.

"I was selected for the Brazilian National Team [for those under age 19] to play in Romania and Italy, which were both World Cup tournaments. Since that day, I believed that I had a talent for the game and had a good chance at going far in it," Nicolau says.

Nicolau moved to the United States at age 18 to learn English. After seven months in Oklahoma, he passed the English skills test, which allowed him to get into college. Not long thereafter, he was recruited by Coach Robert Keith at a rugby tournament in Dallas, Texas to play for the Moosemen at MTSU.

When Nicolau moved to Tennessee in 1998, he knew only one person in the region.

"When I first moved to Tennessee, I didn't know anybody but my coach, Robert Keith, but I very quickly found something in Tennessee that I have not yet seen anywhere else— the southern hospitality. People took care of me when I needed it and when I didn't," Nicolau says.

Nicolau is in his senior year at MTSU and is still a scholarship player for the university's rugby club team, the Moosemen.

"In the past four years, I was three times a Mid-South All-Star, three times a South All-Star and three times an All-American," Nicolau says.

He then went on to be named to the U.S.A. Eagles, the U.S. national team.

"It was a dream come true. I realized it was the real deal, and it was definitely an honor to play for the Eagles," Nicolau adds, regarding his selection for the team.

As a captain of the Moosemen, Nicolau has brought a leadership role to the field and has led the Moosemen to three Sweet Sixteen Division I contests and a championship at the perennial Southern Conference.

"Like any other team, we had our ups and downs throughout the past four years, but what made us successfu was our ability to overcome bad times and our ability to minimize our mistakes inside and outside the field," Nicola says.

Recently, the Brazil native tried out for the U.S.A National 7's team. Twenty-eight players tried out, and the team will be selecting only 12. This team will play abroad, for the most part, in New Zealand, Hong Kong and Chile.

"I think that I did alright, but I really hope that I ca have the opportunity to travel with them," Nicolau remarks.

And although he doesn't know what the future has to hold for him, he says he plans to graduate from MTSU with a degree in business administration.

"I am not quite sure what I am going to do when I graduate. I don't want to rush on my decision. Brazil is my love country, but I am starting to fall for U.S.A.," Nicolau adds with a smile.

CAYO NICOLAU

by Natalie Hall

photo by Rebecca Pickering

by Christopher Magan

Many students find their college career a trying time in their lives filled with hardship and difficulties. Some students, though, must overcome these difficulties just to attend classes.

James Goodman, a computer information systems major, was chosen as one of MTSU's "Simply the Best." Candidates for this honor are chosen by faculty members and are students who News and Public Affairs Media Director Tom Tozer says, "...have overcome great hurdles to get where they are."

Goodman enrolled in MTSU after ten years of military service and revitalized Sigma Delta Sigma, an organization created in the 1970s to help students with disabilities. John Harris, director of disabled student services, was a founding member.

"They have done an outstanding job," Harris says. "I have been really pleased with what I have seen them do; there has been a lot of new interest in the organization."

"The organization has come and gone over the years," Goodman says. "When I arrived, Sigma only existed on paper."

To make sure Sigma was around for students in the years to come, Goodman created a leadership seminar with the help of campus faculty.

According to Harris, this seminar has helped more students with disabilities become involved in university activities. "A lot of those students," he says, "now are leaders and have gone and joined other organizations."

Goodman began suffering from back pain during his service in the Gulf War, and it continued to get worse after he returned home. Military doctors were unable to diagnose the cause of Goodman's chronic pain.

Before the onset of his back pain, Goodman's military career was on the fast track to the top. He had attended recruiter training school and held the rank of sergeant promotable in the army.

"As the pain got worse, my career began to slide downward until I got to the point where I could not pass the physical fitness test required to re-enlist," recalls Goodman.

After his discharge from the army, Goodman underwent two surgeries. Following the second surgery, Goodman returned to Nashville to recover with his family. But when the family members he was living with moved to Atlanta, Goodman was left homeless.

He then worked at the state unemployment office and lived in a homeless shelter for nine months before enrolling at MTSU.

Although Goodman recalls that it was a bizarre feeling going from a prestigious military career to living in a homeless shelter, he says, "I was thankful it was there; it is a great program. It was a real blessing for me."

Goodman has worked with the members of Sigma Delta Sigma to make MTSU's campus friendlier to students with disabilities. Usability and access, Goodman says, are the main problems confronting many disabled students today. Buildings may meet state laws but are not accessible for many people.

Sigma members are currently working on a campus-wide survey to find how the university can make the campus more usable to disabled students in the future. He hopes the survey will give administrators more long-term insight when they design future buildings on campus.

"We now have an instrument that we can go and assess what things need to be done on campus in terms of accessibility," says Harris.

"Most of the stuff that we work on isn't going to do anything for us," Goodman explains. "It will benefit the people who come in behind us."

Goodman hopes to graduate later this year and to continue helping people with disabilities gain equal access and become more involved in the community. He says he is in a unique position because he has seen both sides of the situation. He lived for years without knowing anyone with a disability. Now, he understands how each side feels.

JAMES GOODMAN

undergraduates

Roy Adcock
Freshman

Jadrea Allen
Freshman

Daniel Arnett
Freshman

Amanda Ashworth
Freshman

Nathan Atwood
Junior

Karisse Baker
Junior

Stephen Belk
Freshman

Denise Bell
Sophomore

Austin Bennett
Freshman

Jennifer Bird
Freshman

Fallon Black
Freshman

Sarah Bowen
Junior

Jeremy R Breece
Sophomore

James Brittain
Freshman

Robert Brown
Junior

Shanna Brown
Junior

Mandy Burger
Sophomore

Ashley Burk
Freshman

Jennifer Clark
Sophomore

David Cocanougher
Freshman

Megan Cole
Freshman

Kolby Conway
Freshman

Jeremy Cooper
Freshman

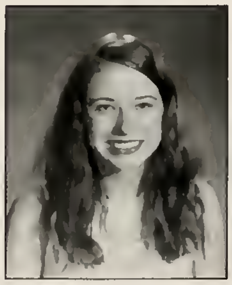
Katie Crytzer
Freshman

Fredrisha Dixon
Freshman

Libby Dozier
Freshman

Julie Drumm
Freshman

Tim Duncan
Sophomore


Kelly Dutton
Freshman

Jonathan Edmonston
Freshman

Amanda Renee Barnes
Sophomore

Elizabeth Beeson
Freshman

Elizabeth Bowman
Freshman

Jared Bredehoeft
Sophomore

Richard Butler
Junior

Jennifer Chastain
Freshman

Rebecca Davison
Junior

Steven Disser
Freshman

Emily Edwards
Freshman

Joshua Evans
Sophomore

Don't worry: tracing and plagiarism aren't the same thing.

Credit cards =Bad...Hippie Store = Good deals

Robert Evans
Senior

John Falkum
Freshman

Sarah Gilbert
Senior

Chris Gordon
Freshman

Rex Harsin
Freshman

Rachel Hathaway
Sophomore

Derrelle Jamison
Freshman

Jeffrey Johnson
Freshman

Keri Lee
Freshman

Diana Lillard
Freshman

undergraduates

Holly Finney
Freshman

Monica Gadson
Freshman

Audrey Garland
Junior

Andrew Garrison
Freshman

Alan Genova
Freshman

Timmy Gibson
Junior

Bette Gosa
Freshman

Casey Guimbellot
Freshman

Brigid Harmon
Junior

Jill Harmon
Graduate Student

Sophie Harris
Freshman

Keona Harrison
Freshman

Marla Henry
Sophomore

Stephanie Hill
Freshman

Saleh Hindieh
Sophomore

Emily Hodges
Sophomore

Todd Huggins
Freshman

Laurie James
Freshman

Bethany Krehbiel
Freshman

Ashley Lamb
Sophomore

Lindsey Lane
Freshman

Charles Kasey
Lawson Junior

Kimberly B Lay
Sophomore

David Lee
Sophomore

Kassi Littlepage
Freshman

Anderson Llewellyn
Junior

Michael Lopez
Freshman

Cal Majure
Senior

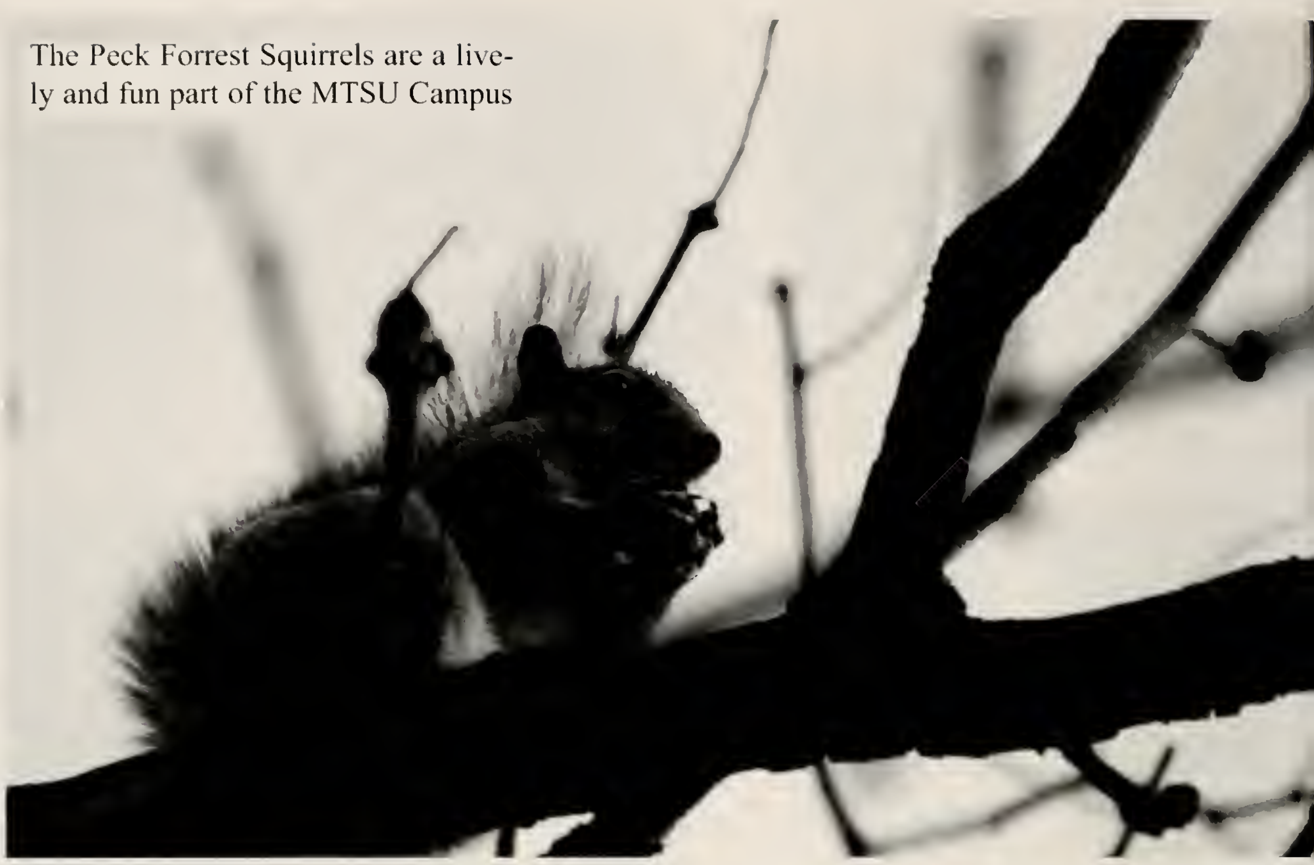
Sean Martin
Freshman

Tonya Matthews
Freshman

Rheuben McKibben
Sophomore

Sean McKitrick
Freshman

The Peck Forrest Squirrels are a lively and fun part of the MTSU Campus



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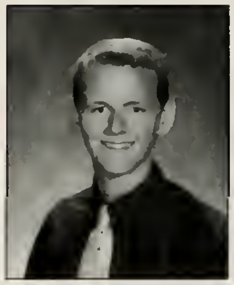
Sophomore

Donna Meeks
Junior

Dale Meier
Freshman

Wayne Mertz
Freshman

Jammie Mize
Junior



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Casie Mounce
Freshman

Gary Muller
Freshman

James Mullinax
Freshman

Jessica Muse
Sophomore

Jennifer Neas
Junior

Kendria Oglesby
Sophomore

Kathryn Outlaw
Junior

Emily Owens
Freshman

Laura Parks
Sophomore

Cameron Parnell
Sophomore

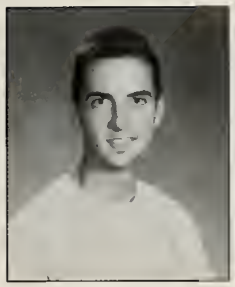
Rachel Patrick
Junior

Lynsie Paul
Sophomore

undergraduates

Robert Payne
Freshman

Jeffery Pernell
Freshman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Elizabeth Pinnix
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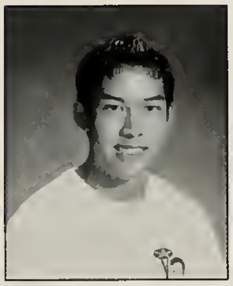
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Melinda Potts
Freshman

Abby Powell
Sophomore

Breanna Randolph
Freshman

Alicia Rankin
Sophomore

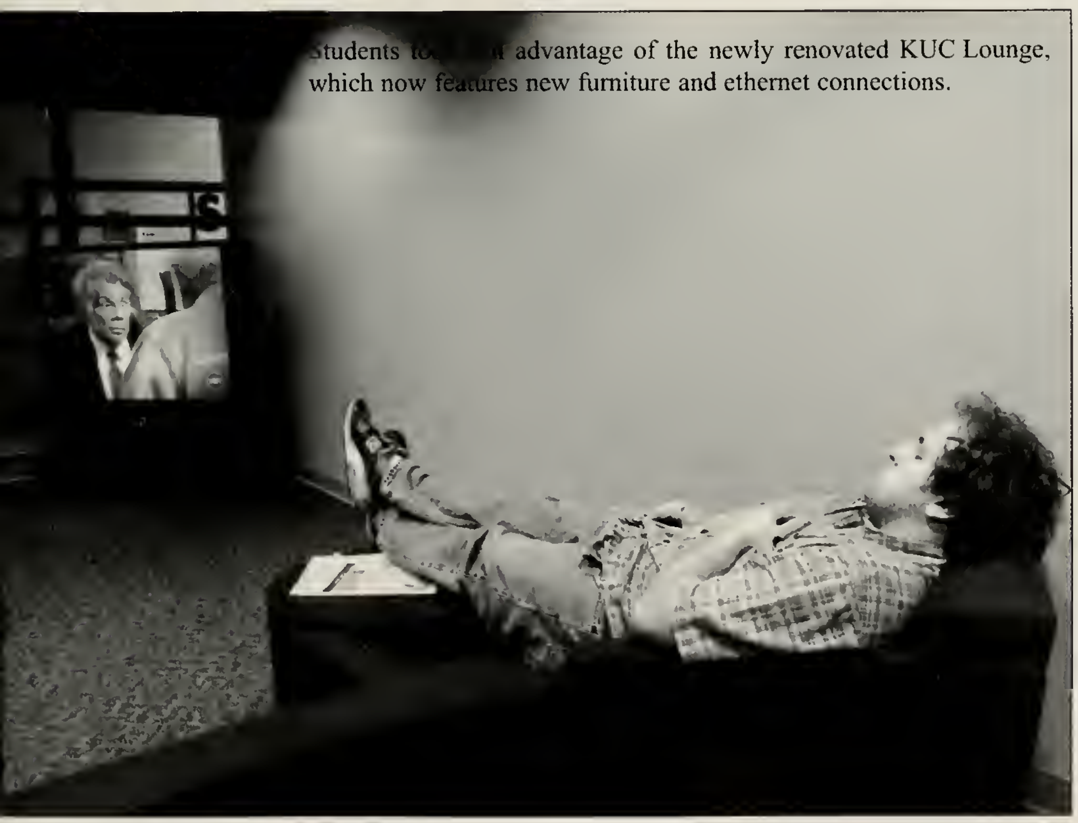
Tyresha Rice
Freshman

David Rivenbark
Freshman

Stefanie Rogers
Junior

Catherine Rolof
Freshman

Ross Locke
Freshman


Students to[illegible] advantage of the newly renovated KUC Lounge, which now features new furniture and ethernet connections.

John Rowan
Freshman

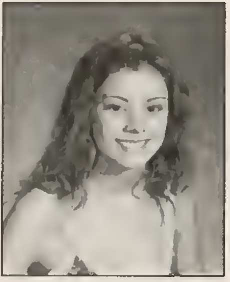
Mary Rowland
Freshman

Heather Sanders
Sophomore

Robert Schafer
Freshman

undergraduates

Johnny Secrest
Freshman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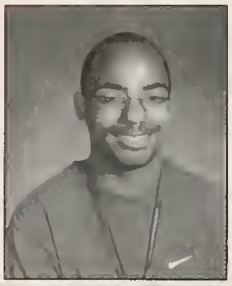
Javon Simmons
Freshman

Leah Snyder
Freshman

Sarah-Elizabeth Spain
Freshman

Melissa Spoonamore
Freshman

Julie Steele
Junior


Anthony Stewart
Freshman

Ashley Stone
Freshman

Zack Stroup
Junior

Jaren Swann
Junior

Lenoria Tapscott
Freshman

Rebecca Thorn
Freshman

Jill Townsend
Freshman

Kelly Trapiss
Freshman

Tiffany Travierso
Freshman

Christopher Treidel
Sophomore

Kelly Updegraff
Freshman

Katie Venable
Freshman

Carien Venter
Junior

Jennifer Venters
Freshman

Marsha Wallace
Freshman

Esparonda Waller
Junior

Rachel Ward
Freshman

Holly Warf
Freshman

Jenna Webb
Freshman

Leah Wilson
Junior

Wes Wyrick
Freshman

Michael Young
Sophomore

Frankie, a nontraditional student, patiently awaits a rider at the Intercollegiate Horse Show.

Study Abroad in *Spain*

by Jeff Harding
photos by Graham Stoner

One Student's Visit to a Foreign Country

Statue of Christopher Columbus requesting permission from Queen Isabella to go to The New World. The queen is buried in the Royal Chapel in Granada.

Baila... baila morena... under the moonlight" These were the words I heard, the words that were sung, the words that we danced to, the words that we lived to.

Well... to tell the truth, I didn't do much dancing in Spain, but the other MTSU students did enough to more than make up for my lack of appearances on the dance floor. Yes, the nights were lively, the music was loud and the alcohol flowed freely. That's all you need for a night of dancing in the city of Murcia in southern Spain. I guess a little rhythm wouldn't hurt, but who really cares about rhythm when the screwdrivers are four parts vodka and one part orange soda? That's right, orange soda.

Well... to tell the truth, I didn't do much drinking while I was in Spain, but the other MTSU students... well, you can just ask them about that. The 2002 MTSU summer trip to Murcia, Spain--sponsored by the foreign language department and open to all MTSU students– was about more than just dancing and drinking, though.

There is something about just being in Spain that takes you beyond the lavish nightlife. But it's not quite a sense of "magic" in the air; it's more of a faint yet unmistakable presence of the past, a tugging on your soul that tells you you are standing where history has taken place, not the same history that we ascribe to the United States but a history that surpasses the American experience, that transcends the beginnings of our "my way right away" mentality and reminds us that we are still so very young in the eyes of the world.

Standing next to a 14th-century church, I found it amazing that I was looking at a structure that had been built 400 years before the Declaration of Independence had even been written. The sculptures of the saints in the capillas of the cathedral told stories of heroes who walked the earth before anyone had ever heard of George Washington or the *Mayflower*.

A few hours away from Murcia, in Granada, I saw the place where Christopher Columbus had asked permission from Ferdinand and Isabell to search for a new route to India. I climbed a hill to the Moorish palace known as the Alhambra, the palace of the last Moorish capitol in Spain. The beauty of this place could only be rivaled by Granada's amazing cathedral, a spiritual sanctuary immaculately con-

structed, lined with beautiful stained glass and capable of rendering most any visitor to his or her knees for a prayer of thanks for being able to see such remarkable splendor. There is some truth to the old saying: "The worst punishment in this life is to be blind in Granada."

Spain was more than a history lesson for us, though. We had fun. We swam in the Mediterranean. We drank Sangria as we listened to Flamenco music and watched a man juggle flaming torches in Madrid's Plaza Mayor. And the girls shopped. They shopped, and SHOPPED, AND SHOPPED! I don't have an exact number; I don't even have a close guess or a rough estimate, but I do know that the presence of Spanish clothing on this campus has greatly increased this year.

Why did these girls buy all of these clothes? I'm not sure, but it might have had something to do with the clubs in Murcia and Ibiza. The music alone was powerful enough to attract our group of students to the discos night, after night, after night. It was reassuring to see that music's power to break down cultural walls and unite young people holds true in other places of the world.

As much as I enjoyed Spain, the last week of the trip found me spending the few hours of dusk sitting in a park next to my apartment, reading the famous *Harry Potter* series and missing home very much.

I don't regret going, though. I had an amazing experience that I might never get the chance to have again. I met wonderful people, some from all over the world and others who live right here in Murfreesboro. I saw the caskets of Ferdinand and Isabella. I sat in the plaza where people were burned during the Spanish Inquisition. I saw Picasso's *Guernica*. I ate tapas. I swam in the sea, and I listened to the gypsies sing, play and dance the flamenco in the Sacramonte. And I'm not sure, but I think I might have even learned a little bit of Spanish too.

Top: Kiki, Emily, Dan, and Graham Stoner relax on a Mediterranean beach in Aguilas.
Above: Palacios Nazaries at the Alhambra. The stalactites that hang from the ceiling are hand carved.

academics

Education is not thefilling of a pail,
but the lighting of a fire.
-William Butler Yeats

Dreams Meet Pavement

FedEx donates 727 to MTSU's aerospace program

story by Alicia Bennett
photos by Jack Ross, Photo Services

Excitement pulsed through the Tuesday morning crowd of expectant students, MTSU faculty members and just plain curious spectators, as a Boeing 727 one of 1,831 originally made, appeared out of a cloudy sky. Initially a speck, the FedEx cargo plane quickly enlarged as it approached Murfreesboro's single runway. After aligning with the runway, the captain announced his intention to land, and with the admiration of the assembled crowd, touched down smoothly. The 727 slowed to a roll with only 2,000 feet of the available 3,890 feet behind it. "I didn't even use the brakes," its pilot Hal Lexo commented.

The landing, to everyone's relief, went a lot more smoothly than the process to get the plane here has gone. Although the Boeing 727 has proven to be well-suited to its field of commercial aviation, holding a service record of 36 years with TWA, new noise restrictions and other economical factors along with age are forcing it into retirement. Of course, this is good news for MTSU's maintenance department since FedEx decided to donate their 727's to maintenance schools across the country.

"I found out last summer that we were starting to retire airplanes. I made contacts with the university and FedEx. It's been a long battle, but it's worked. It's good for the university and FedEx," remarks Gary Lyons, a former Aerospace graduate and current FedEx employee. So, despite numerous obstacles, including questions over liability insurance for the city and the school, FedEx has delivered.

Dr. Paul Craig, chairman for the aerospace department, explains, "Right now the position [of the aircraft] is not its pennarient location. Ultimately, it will be turned into a working laboratory and classroom. One of the things we want to be able to do is use the landing gear system to teach how the hydraulics work to our maintenance management students."

The operation of the hydraulically powered systems, which also include flaps and flight controls, is hoped to provide MTSU aerospace maintenance students with experience that is similar to actual work in the field. FedEx has also provided manuals for the aircraft, which will further enrich students' studies.

MTSU officials hope that FedEx's donation, estimated to be worth over $2 million will generate interest in the aerospace maintenance program as well as the pro-pilot program here. Additionally, all areas of the aerospace department, as well as the university itself, are expected to benefit from the publicity.

As President McPhee explains, "The feeling [...] to see the airplane approaching and realize what it means to the university [...] It's already significant for the university. We're fortunate that we worked a partnership with Federal Express. It's something to build on."

Clockwise from top:

Because of the airplane's weight, the ground crew had to slowly move the airplane along tracks to prevent damage to the taxiways. Local firefighters were also on call in case of any unknown emergencies.

After the aircraft was on the ground, David Sutton, assistant general manager of aircraft acquisitions and sales for FedEx, explains to President Sidney McPhee (left) and Paul Craig (right), chair of the aerospace department, along with others, how cargo is loaded onto the plane and stored during flight.

McPhee inspects the controls of the plane with Craig and Sutton. The static classroom will provide the experience for students in the aircraft maintenance training program.

Dr. James Calder

by Derek Carter

Teaching students awareness of disabilities.

To students who have never had him as a professor, he is "the guy on the scooter." His students, however, know him as Dr. Calder.

James Calder received a bachelor's degree from Murray State University where he majored in Elementary Education and minored in Special Education.

Calder followed in his father's footsteps in becoming a teacher and began to help light the way for special education for his brother, who is mentally retarded.

After taking a teaching job at the University of Louisville in Kentucky, Calder received his master's degree in Special Education with a focus in mental retardation.

From there he went to the University of Florida on a fellowship to receive his Ed. S. He then accepted an administrative job at the University of Alabama, where he was able to earn his doctorate. He also taught at Huntington College and at Alabama State University.

Calder has been at MTSU since 1991. Here he specializes in elementary education, particularly special education. One of the classes he teaches, A Survey of Exceptional Children, is a unique experience to say the least.

In an effort to give students an idea of what it is like to live with a disability, Calder has created an exercise in which students must participate without the benefit of their eyesight. Students place cotton balls over their eyes and are then blindfolded and sent on a cross-campus journey.

Armed with only a cane, students must find their way from one end of campus to another. Each student has a guide who is allowed only to give limited voice commands. It's not just walking, though; there are stops along the way.

With help from his or her guide, the blind student must find a vending machine, put the correct amount of money in the correct slot and choose what he or she wants.

Still blindfolded, the student must eat his or her snack to see if that is what he or she thought was chosen. The exercise ends with an evaluation by the students.

Calder is known around campus for riding his motorized scooter and wearing Hawaiian shirts. **photo by Matthew H. Starling**

"They say that it is frightening, frustrating and humbling … most of them say they never want to do it again."

Calder has been including exercises such as this in his curriculum for thirty years. "I do a variety of things to help students create awareness of disabilities."

The blindness experiment, which in the past lasted 24 hours, now lasts for only a few hours. Calder also used to do an exercise in which a student would be in a wheelchair for a day, just so he or she could experience the difficulties that handicapped people encounter.

"I do these things to make people understand what it's like to do without the things they have," explains Calder.

Calder says he continues to promote disability awareness in his teaching and is proud of the fact that MTSU is one of the most handicap-accessible campuses in the country.

Tulip Poplar Press

Press Gives Students Opportunity for Artistic Expression

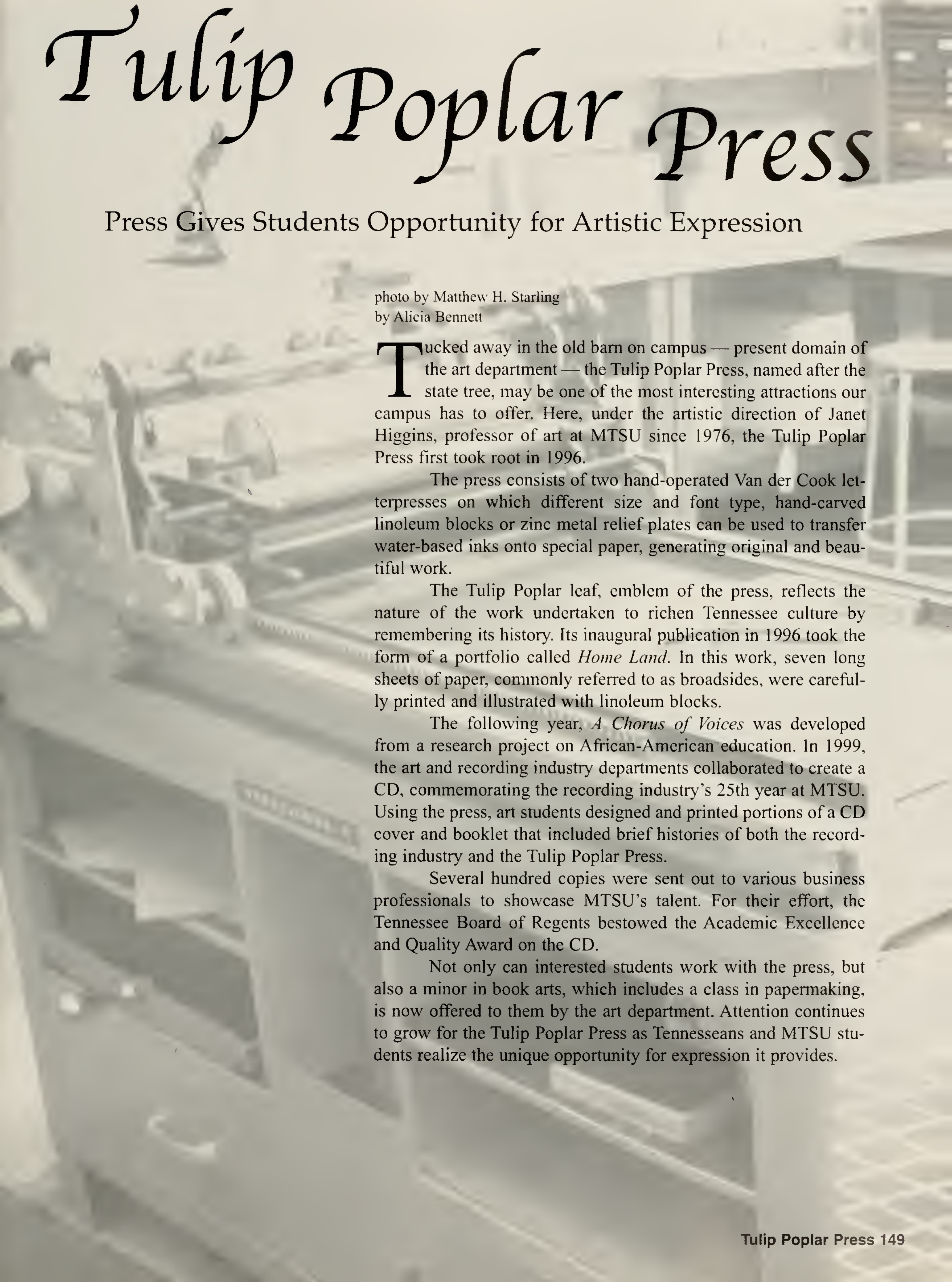


photo by Matthew H. Starling

by Alicia Bennett

Tucked away in the old barn on campus — present domain of the art department — the Tulip Poplar Press, named after the state tree, may be one of the most interesting attractions our campus has to offer. Here, under the artistic direction of Janet Higgins, professor of art at MTSU since 1976, the Tulip Poplar Press first took root in 1996.

The press consists of two hand-operated Van der Cook letterpresses on which different size and font type, hand-carved linoleum blocks or zinc metal relief plates can be used to transfer water-based inks onto special paper, generating original and beautiful work.

The Tulip Poplar leaf, emblem of the press, reflects the nature of the work undertaken to richen Tennessee culture by remembering its history. Its inaugural publication in 1996 took the form of a portfolio called *Home Land*. In this work, seven long sheets of paper, commonly referred to as broadsides, were carefully printed and illustrated with linoleum blocks.

The following year, *A Chorus of Voices* was developed from a research project on African-American education. In 1999, the art and recording industry departments collaborated to create a CD, commemorating the recording industry's 25th year at MTSU. Using the press, art students designed and printed portions of a CD cover and booklet that included brief histories of both the recording industry and the Tulip Poplar Press.

Several hundred copies were sent out to various business professionals to showcase MTSU's talent. For their effort, the Tennessee Board of Regents bestowed the Academic Excellence and Quality Award on the CD.

Not only can interested students work with the press, but also a minor in book arts, which includes a class in papermaking, is now offered to them by the art department. Attention continues to grow for the Tulip Poplar Press as Tennesseans and MTSU students realize the unique opportunity for expression it provides.

More than 1,700 students at MTSU declare recording industry as their major. This is a testament to the popularity of the recording industry in today's entertainment field.

The recording industry program at MTSU was planned through the guidance and recommendation of industry professionals and executives, as well as the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, the National Association of Recording Merchandisers and the Society of Professional Audio Recording Services.

"There's always been two sides of what we do, music business and production audio," says Geoffrey Hull, the first full-time faculty member of the recording industry program.

In 1977, MTSU began offering recording industry as a major, focusing on music business. The music business program offered History of the Recording Indutry, Survey of the Recording Industry, Marketing of Recordings, Record Retail, Publishing, Artist Management and Concert Promotion. The department redefined the curriculum, moving some of the focus to the production side, and installed a 4- track recording studio in the Learning Resource Center. The changes set the enrollment of declared majors to 93. In 1979, the department took a more serious approach and installed a 16- track recording studio on East Main Street, calling it the Haynes House.

In 1985, the Recording Industry Major (RIM) program received funding from MTSU and the Board of Regents to develop a center of excellence called the Center for Recording Arts and Sciences. This center gave MTSU an additional 16- track studio.

"We received prominent recognition for our recording industry program," says Hull. The National Association of Recording Merchandisers rated the recording industry program at MTSU in 1980 as, "the most comprehensive music business program in the country."

In the spring of 1991, the College of Mass Communications opened its doors with a brand new building containing two state of the art recording studios, a 24- track digital room and a MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) lab. The recording industry department was also offered a portion of the Technology Access Fee to upgrade the studios.

"At this point, the studios were now able to operate 24-7, functioning as classrooms and student labs," says Dr. Paul Fischer, who teaches History of the Recording Industry and Concert Promotions.

In 1995, the record-setting enrollment of declared majors in the recording industry program was 1,000 students. When the candidacy program was introduced in 1997, the requirements changed and increased, keeping hundreds of students from registering for upper division classes before obtaining the proper prerequisites.

"Candidacy allows dedicated students access to upper division classes and studio equipment," says Hull, former department chairman and author of *The Recording Industry*.

"Make sure you're serious, because you're constantly in competition with other students. Don't get discouraged by the core classes, they're only there to weed out those who aren't dedicated," says senior recording industry major Alison Swetlik, who is currently interning for Warner Elektra and Atlantic as an artist development representative.

The recording industry program has a database system that helps students locate an internship. The program also hosts a career fair each semester that brings the students possible jobs and internships from some of the industry's top labels.

"MTSU's recording industry program is well-known," says senior recording industry major Todd Hardison. The RIM intern database system allows students the opportunity to find internship positions all over the country.

"An internship creates the opportunity for students to work in a real environment," says Fisher. "This builds the bridge from student to employee."

Each year, more and more students from around the world enroll in the recording industry program at MTSU. New changes will soon enhance the requirements and set standards for incoming recording industry majors. With these new advancements, MTSU will give students the opportunity to graduate from one of the nation's best recording industry programs.

"We prepare college graduates for the reality of the industry," says Fischer.

RIM

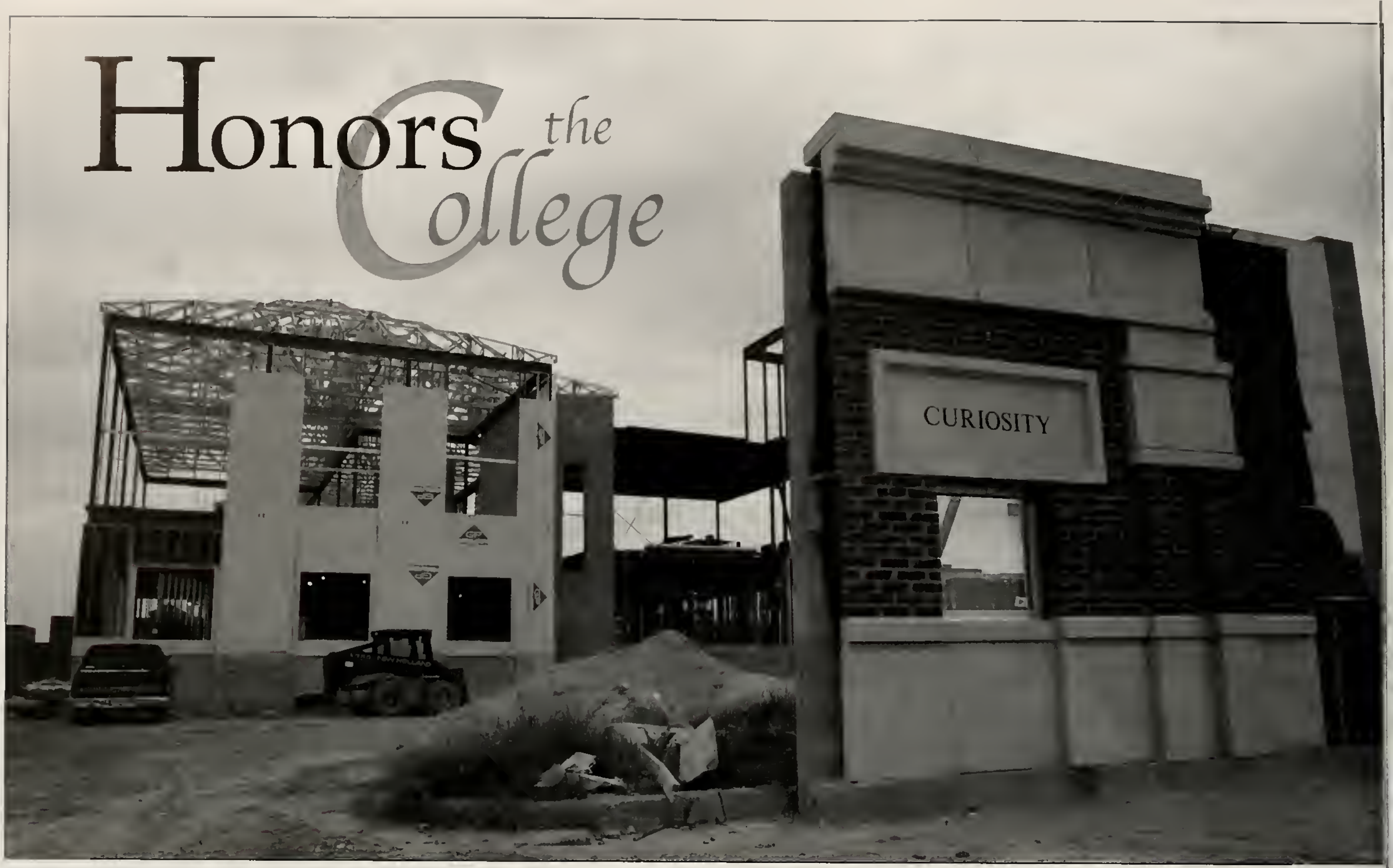
by Lindsey Keen

THE GROWTH OF AN INDUSTRY

Above: RIM Professor Bob Wood leads rehearsal in the studio before laying down a track.

Left: Bruce Kasprzyk, R.J. Corrin and Bryan Raitt work on their RIM 440 project in Studio B.

Honors the College



GROUNDBREAKING

by Amy Taylor

A State University's Approach to a Private College.

Above: A slate and brick mock-up shows what the outside of the Paul W. Martin, Sr. Honors College will look like when completed.

Left: The back of the new building faces the Mass Communications Building's courtyard.

As a public university, MTSU has now enhanced its approach to academics with its expansion of the Honors College. During the 2002 fall semester, the Honors College saw an enrollment of 1,071 students, which is the largest in Middle Tennessee State University history. This constantly expanding population of honor students on the MTSU campus has called for new resources, which is exactly the purpose Dr. John Paul Montgomery, dean of the Honors College, has seen in the construction of the $4 million dollar Paul W. Martin, Sr. Honors College Building.

Dr. Montgomery says that, in the new building, the honors college students will find a haven from the stresses of a large university atmosphere and an opportunity for advancement in the standard university curriculum: "Students in the honors college are attracted to the small classes. Also, in grouping high ability students, there is a sense of filtering out low motivation."

With only a minority of university honors students having transferred from other universities or returned to school from years of absence, it seems that the heaviest population of the Honors College consists of university students who avidly participated in the honors curriculum of their high schools and who understand the work ethic involved.

A major advantage of the honors college is its ability to offer a sort of "private school" program. Dr. Montgomery says of his department, "Students who chose MTSU over the small private college have made a wise decision. In the Honors College we try to create an atmosphere that is identical to that of a private institution. Only full-time faculty are qualified to teach the honors curriculum. Our very own Honors Review Board intricately interviews prospective faculty of the honors program. This insures that the Honors College has the highest skilled and experienced professors working with our high ability students."

A commonly asked question among students regarding the honors program is "What's all the fuss about being a part of the Honors College?" The answer ... enrollment in the Honors College prepares a student for the challenges that await him or her in graduate school.

By engaging in a challenging work environment, a student learns the importance of a thesis and the process involved in completing his or her dissertation when or if that student decides to complete a master's or doctorate degree.

For Dr. Montgomery, the most important aspect of an Honors College is filtering through MTSU's student scholars and being able to work with the best and brightest students that the university has to offer.

There are particular course requirements for a student to graduate from the Honors College. The common curriculum that most potential Honors College graduates must follow begins with eighteen hours of honors general studies courses. Then, eight hours of a student's upper division courses must be in the honors college while another six hours of honors course work is interdisciplinary studies. Finally, an Honors College student must complete a thesis, which requires a private tutorial with an Honors College professor. The thesis comprises a final three-hour credit requirement for a student to graduate from the Honors College.

As a result of an Honors College student developing skills and obtaining credentials needed in a graduate school environment, ultimately he or she is given more opportunities and choices in graduate schools and internships. Dr. Montgomery adds, "Your future as a professional begins here. The Honors College gives students a fresh start and a chance to strive for what they really want out of their education and career choices. MTSU's Honors College can create opportunities a student never thought were possible! With this in mind, a student should approach the honors curriculum at MTSU with excitement because there is no telling where we can take you once you're a part of this organization."

Dr. Montgomery uses an interesting analogy to share his excitement of the new Honors College facility: "It's like having the best equipment available for athletic trainers to finely tune an athlete. We will now have the best resources available to equip the inquiring minds of MTSU's honors scholars. We, as the faculty and staff of the Honors College, have an outlook that great things are yet to come!"

The Honors College hopes to be moved into their new facility within the next year. The $4 million building is hoped to attract more students to come to MTSU from different locales. In addition, MTSU hopes to seek out the best and brightest students to take part of the Honors College experience.
photos by Matthew H. Starling

Among other things, the Honors College will have a fireplace inside, and Westminister chimes will be hanging in the tower. Construction should finally be complete in late 2003 or early 2004, and the college will officially open at the beginning of the next academic year.

New Man on Campus

New dean of Mass Comm shoots for globalization.

By Amanda Maynord

Family photos and a plethora of books line each wall of Dr. Anantha Babbili's new office in the College of Mass Communication. After only a few months in his new role as dean of the college, already he has added his own flavor to the office.

Although Babbili has been at his new job for just two months, he has already established ties to MTSU as well as the MTSU community. Along with plans to globalize the mass communication program, he says he also hopes to teach at least one journalism class in the upcoming semesters.

Moreover, Babbili, a native of India, also has begun to create bonds with the Murfreesboro community through church, social and faith communities. He says he and his family have begun to seek out a church in the area that combines his ideas of globalization and Christianity.

"One thing I did find out is that they are very open and very welcoming," Babbili says, regarding his family's search for the perfect religious community. "That's very refreshing because, in small towns, you never know how people will accept you if you're not from the dominant ethnic religion."

In addition, Babbili says he has made media outlets such as *The Tennessean* and Murfreesboro's *Daily New Journal* part of his new career in Tennessee.

"They all immediately struck a rapport with me, and it was mutual. There was an immediate connection between the two of us," Babbili says.

While growing up in India, Babbili learned many life lessons that he has brought with him to MTSU. As a Christian in a country where Hinduism is the dominant religion, he says he learned to become more open-minded. He has carried this through with his goal of globalization for the college.

"India gave me the tolerance [to accept] diversity as a lifestyle," Babbili observes. "I don't look at cultural, racial, religious, linguistic diversity as something we should attempt to integrate. I think it is an inherent part of my personality and my thinking."

After Babbili graduated from college in India, he says he began working in advertising, then became a copy editor and, eventually, a managing editor at an English-language daily newspaper.

He began his career in the United States while getting his master's degree in journalism from the University of Oklahoma. From there, he went on to earn a doctorate degree at the University of Iowa.

Instead of returning to India upon graduation, however, Babbili says he decided to try his hand at teaching and became a professor at Texas Christian University (TCU).

"I literally fell in love with teaching and stayed there for 21 years," Babbili says, referring to the Fort Worth-based private university.

It was during his tenure at TCU, Babbili recalls, that he pioneered several programs, including a degree in international communication and a study-abroad program. He also helped enact a second-language requirement for the school's journalism majors. As a teacher, he continued to write for newspapers on issues regarding the U.S. in foreign policy and international affairs.

While doing all of this, he was recognized as one of the best professors in the state of Texas. He also has been recognized by the Poynter Institute for Media Studies, the American Society of Newspaper Editors and the Associated Press managing editors.

In spite of his success in Texas, when the opportunity arose to interview for the position of dean of MTSU's College of Mass Communication in early 2002, he took it. Babbili says he was impressed with the college itself, and upon being offered the job, he quickly accepted.

In the end, he adds, the deciding factor for him was the "solid respect and reputation that the college has around the country. And it is also one of the largest programs in the country," he notes.

Although Babbili is among the newest members of the MTSU community, already he possesses a vision for the future that is full of growth, globalization and community.

"We need to attract the world to our campus, and we need to go to the world," Babbili remarks.

Concrete Canoe

Concrete Industry Management students built a concrete canoe for a contest in Tallahassee, Fla. Builders include, from left, Josh Gaines, Josh Cornwall, Clint Hensley, Sean Van Delist and Dr. Heather Brown, assistant professor, CIM. **photo by Ken Robinson**

by Elizabeth Dugan

It's not difficult to imagine canoeing down the river in the early morning as the pink sunrays dance off the ridges in the water. But what if the canoe was made of concrete?

This may sound far-fetched, but some students in MTSU's Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program recently built a canoe made completely of concrete—and it actually floats!

Junior Josh Cornwall, president of MTSU's chapter of the American Concrete Industry (ACI), served as captain of the canoe-building team, which was composed of the ACI and the Student Association for Women in Construction (SAWIC).

This hard-working group entered the competition with many well-known civil engineering schools. This is important because MTSU is considered an engineering technology school, not a civil engineering school.

"Since there is no other school in the nation that has our program, we have to find ways to compete against people, and this was one way they found," says Dr. Heather Brown, assistant professor and faculty advisor.

MTSU's canoe measured 17 feet long, 33 inches wide and 18 inches deep. The crew began with a wood frame, and then molded the concrete around that. They used what Brown called "hollow, glass spheres" instead of aggregate, which is rock, to make the canoe lighter so it would float. Next, they bound it all together with materials such as latex because they were looking for "a sticky, high-strength mix that floats," Brown explains.

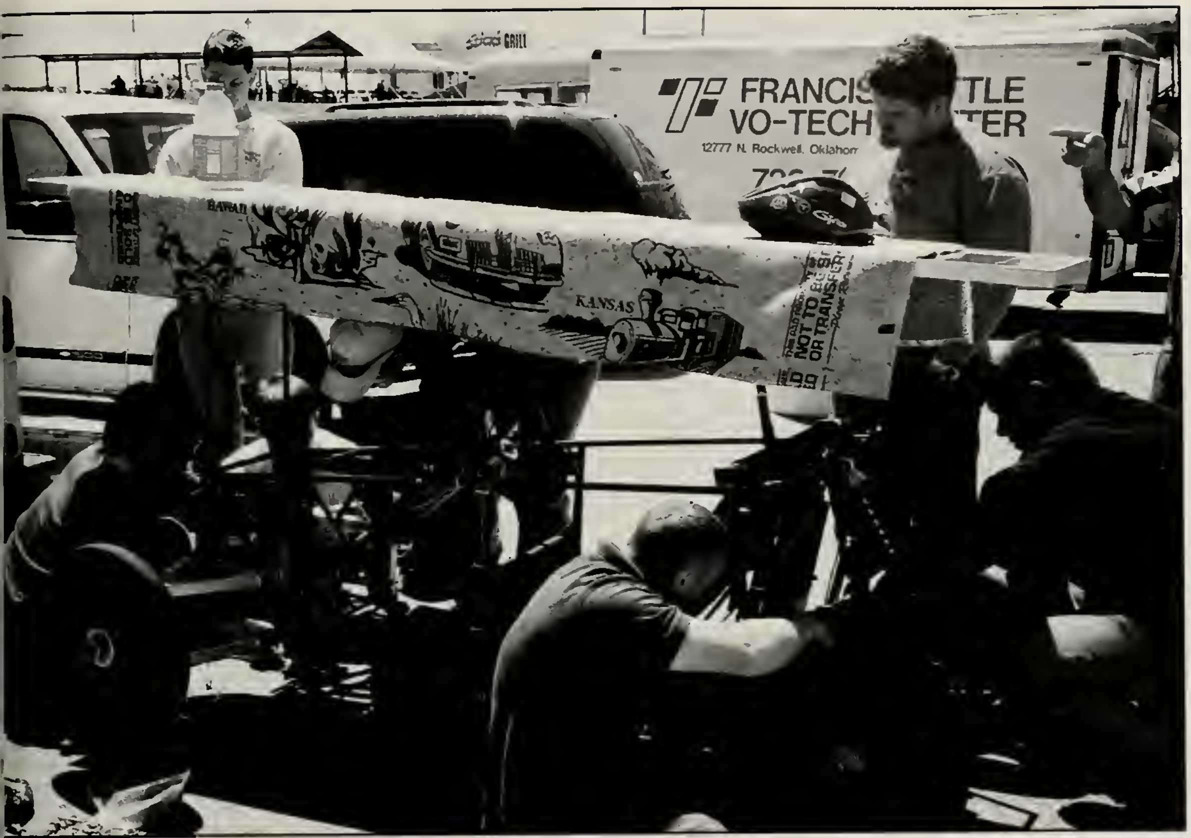
The team members had to find the perfect mixture that would allow the canoe to float while remaining strong enough to hold four young men. The team then had an automobile body shop technician paint the canoe "Raider" blue. They did, however, have to leave a portion of the canoe unpainted so that the judges could clearly see the mix.

In the end, MTSU placed 10th out of 25 schools.

"We did really well for our first time. We were actually really excited because it was our first year out. We named the boat *Rookie Mistake* just to let everyone know it was our first year," Brown says, regarding the team's accomplishment.

As part of the competition, the team members had to prepare a paper on all the technical aspects of the canoe, create and present a presentation in front of the judges and build a display for the canoe, as well as racing, Brown points out.

"More than anything, they had a great time. They really enjoy it. They want to go back every year, if they can," Brown says.



Dr. Ricketts' students reassemble their alternative fuel car before it was to be shown in the Earth Day celebration in Nashville. The students do a huge majority of the work on their own while Ricketts acts as a guide or coach. **photo by Ken Sergeant**

Alternative Fuel Research

Matter of Experimentation

by Tiffany Brown

In a shop that resembles most large car-repair shops, Dr. Cliff Ricketts and his students try to make ecological and mechanical magic. In this garage strewn with random machine parts, sit projects that Ricketts and his students hope will someday be the future of the automotive industry.

A practice called "alternative fuel research" is what Ricketts and his students undertake each semester, trying to develop an engine that runs cleaner and uses fuel other than petroleum-powered vehicles. "I am so diverse in what I do," Ricketts says. "I teach in the classroom; I teach shop classes," he says. "Actually, the alternative energy work is not really a part of my instructional program, it is just kind of a sideline because I personally think that it is some of the most important research in the world," he says.

Ricketts and students Cody Adgent, Amanda Sims, Bob Johnson and Jeremy Hughs took two vehicles with them to this year's Earth Day celebration in Nashville. "The cars were big hits there," Ricketts says. "They drew lots of attention."

Ricketts explains that the vehicles are actually student projects, mixed with a little bit of his brainstorming and coaching. "Students do most all of the work, and when I say most, I'm talking about 98 percent," Ricketts says.

"I tell the students what I want, so I guess I am kind of the inventor, and I say, 'this is what I want,' and then I just kind of have to be patient and wait for certain students," he explains. "There are just very few students who have the mechanical ability to do the type of things that you need to do with this, but usually I wind up getting about one or two every year, out of the three or four that work on these projects."

One example of past vehicle projects is a vehicle that runs on ethanol from corn. This was the first project from 20 years ago, Ricketts says. Other examples include a car that runs off of soybean oil, which he says while running, smells just like McDonald's french-fries being cooked. And his latest project, and the one over which he is beaming, is a pick-up truck with an electric-hybrid engine.

"This is our new baby," he says. "We haven't shown it yet. The official debut will be at the national Future Farmers of America convention in Louisville, Ky.," he adds. Ricketts says he expects there to be at least 50,000 people at the convention.

The future of the alternative fuel research program at MTSU looks promising. Still, with all of its successes, Ricketts concedes, "I don't know everything, [sometimes] we just fall flat on our faces. It is all just a matter of experimentation."

Campus School

by Sarah Palmer

Why They Cut the Umbrella Too

(Above) Amanda Yarbro, senior English major, and Dr. Ron Kates help the children at Pittard Campus School with their daily work. **(Right)** Senior Kelechurwu Oparah explains the answer to one of the questions asked by the campus school children.

Anna Wilson, sophomore English major, helps a Campus School student revise one of her papers. **photos by Nathan Atwood**

Assistant Professor Ronald Kates has always been an advocate of service learning and working in the community. "It's important to get out of the classroom, get off campus," he claims, so that students can learn by doing and teaching. It was this impetus that influenced Kates' plan for his unique Honors Interdisciplinary Seminar.

"When I designed this class, I definitely wanted it to have a service learning impact," Kates says. For this reason, Dr. Kates had his students do writing projects with 1st and 6th graders at Campus School.

Campus School has been around for a long time, almost 75 years to be exact. It is affiliated with the university, and all the teachers there are part of the MTSU Elementary Education department. Campus School is also used as a lab school for education majors to gain experience from actually teaching children.

It was this skill that Kates mainly wanted his students to gain from their experience at Campus School. College students worked with different groups of children at the school, helping them with their writing and doing research or anything else that the project required. "I want my students to synthesize what they've learned in their other classes and put it together in this class in their writing and outreach," he claims.

Kates believes that it is important to be able to write from a teaching standpoint as well. The college students seem to enjoy their community outreach; Kates says that, while at the beginning his students regarded working with children as extra effort and busy work, "Everyone has really enjoyed what we're doing; they enjoy teaching people and going out into the community."

The projects the children did mainly involved historical writing and research. Kates used the Campus School's upcoming 75th anniversary as the theme for the children to use in a scrapbook. The objective was for the kids to relate some type of a history of Campus School and to get a sample of the past. Kates' students did numerous writing exercises to teach the children how to use different aspects of writing to help them write stories for their scrapbook.

A photography teacher also came in to give a talk on taking pictures, and afterward, the children got a chance to take their own photos for their scrapbooks.

The scrapbooks were designed mainly as memory books, which included stories, pictures and different artifacts to give a sense of what it was like to be a student at campus school in 2002.

The 6th graders were also able to do a different project. The writing projects focused on two important persons' visits to Murfreesboro. The kids focused on either Elvis Presley's concert at the Murphy Center in 1974 or General MacArthur's visit in 1951. The project was further broken down, and each group of 6th graders was assigned to write their story either as a newspaper article, a short story from the perspective of Elvis or MacArthur or a short story from the perspective of an onlooker.

College students helped with a lot of the research, and many activities were planned to help the young students get creative with their projects. Mr. Harold Smith, former Facilities Manager at the Murphy Center, gave a talk at the school and was actually able to give a firsthand account of Elvis' performance.

Overall, Kates hoped that the younger students gained experience in historical writing and researching through the interaction with his students. All of the projects were designed to help the kids discover their community and where they are from, and getting them interested in this is something that Professor Kates believes "can translate into a lifetime love of learning." He also hopes that the children will develop a little better appreciation of history while improving their researching and writing skills.

Kates believes that he has accomplished this and anticipates continuing the outreach, getting more people involved in the future.

Outstanding Professors -

Margaret Fontanesi-Seime

photo by Matthew H. Starlin

"Teaching has always been my career goal. I enjoyed learning as a child and decided very early in life that I would be a teacher. Today, not a lot of people can say that they look forward to going to their jobs, but I can. I enjoy the university atmosphere, all the students and the classroom interaction. Most of all, I know that I am teaching students the knowledge, skills and values that they will need to save the life of a child, help an elderly couple to remain in their home or keep one child in school. I'm proud to be a teacher in the area of social work, and I'm honored to receive the Outstanding Teacher Award."

Kathleen M. Therrien

paragraph
¶
f life

photo by Megan Allender

"I teach because I truly believe that critical, informed thinking, which is fostered by learning about and understanding others ideas and experiences, asking tough questions, writing carefully and thoughtfully and reading extensively, can make the world a better place. Yes, that's idealistic and sounds a little cheesy, but it's true."

- *Outstanding Professors*

Outstanding Professors –

Mary Jane Lavender

photo by Megan Allender

"I was 16 years old and observed an 80-year-old farmer who had been accidently burned alive. His wife was hysterical, and I could not comfort her. I vowed then that I wanted to help people and decided to become a nurse. Later in my nursing career, I noted that teaching nurses would multiply my nursing efforts. I enjoy teaching students because they are bright, articulate and have a resolve to help and comfort people in need. Life and happiness is all about helping each other with our daily struggles and giving God the credit for the good in our lives."

Patricia M. Patterson

photo by Megan Allender

"As long as I can remember, I've always wanted to teach. After taking chemistry in high school and then majoring in it in college, I wanted to teach even more. But I wanted practical, industrial experience before completing that dream. In college, I always wanted to know, How am I going to use this information? When I see the light bulbs come on as I'm working with my students, I feel that I've accomplished one of my goals. It's great to be recognized by your colleagues, but it's truly an honor to be recognized by your students who are with you many hours each week."

– *Outstanding Professors*

ModestNeeds.ORG

by Jennifer Neas

Professor Gives Time and Money to Help Those Less Fortunate

The concept of tithing is what made English professor Keith Taylor start a web site that has grown tremendously, changing lives along the way. While in graduate school, Taylor said he did "quite a bit of work with theology." One lesson that stuck the longest was "that of how and why tithing was necessary in the earliest Christian church."

The tithe was meant to be saved until an individual or family of the church had a "catastrophe" that would have made it impossible to survive without some financial help. "The money was not a loan," explained Taylor, "just a gift designed to help that person recover from the catastrophe and get back on his or her feet." Taylor decided to do something to help people that were having this problem in current times.

In March 2002, Taylor launched this personal project through a website located at www.modestneeds.com. It has since changed locations to www.modestneeds.org.

The purpose of the organization is to help those that are "living from paycheck to paycheck and might sometimes encounter an unexpected expense that could spell financial disaster," said Taylor. Only "short term, small pressing financial needs" can be addressed through the site.

The way the website works is that the individual writers in — either by email or snail mail— then Taylor and some of the people that help him read through the letters to find the ones with the most need and urgency. If Modest Needs can fund the request, Taylor writes back to the person asking for verification and payment information. This process is to ensure that someone is not trying to steal money from the website. The whole process of paying someone's bill can take anywhere from a few hours to two weeks, depending on how critical the case is.

Taylor and his staff read through anywhere from 80 to 100 letters a day, with an occasional nasty reply from someone the organization cannot help for various reasons.

This professor does not only run the website and organization, but he also gives monthly from his paycheck to help those that write in with unexpected needs. Taylor currently gives $500 a month, about 15 percent of his monthly paycheck.

While Taylor encourages people to give when they feel they should, he says that most of the money that comes into the website is from people that give monthly. Some give 10 percent monthly while others give a few dollars every month. To date, the largest one-time monetary gift he has received has been $5,000.

The monthly monetary average that the website sees is about $10,000.

When the "pledges to the site have reached $20,000 per month, I plan to split the site into eastern and western regions," explained Taylor. His ultimate goal is to open five regional sites in the United States and two sites in Canada.

The site has grown within a year to become more of a "team effort," said Taylor. "Modest Needs might've begun as a personal project, but it is obviously no longer my own," explained Taylor.

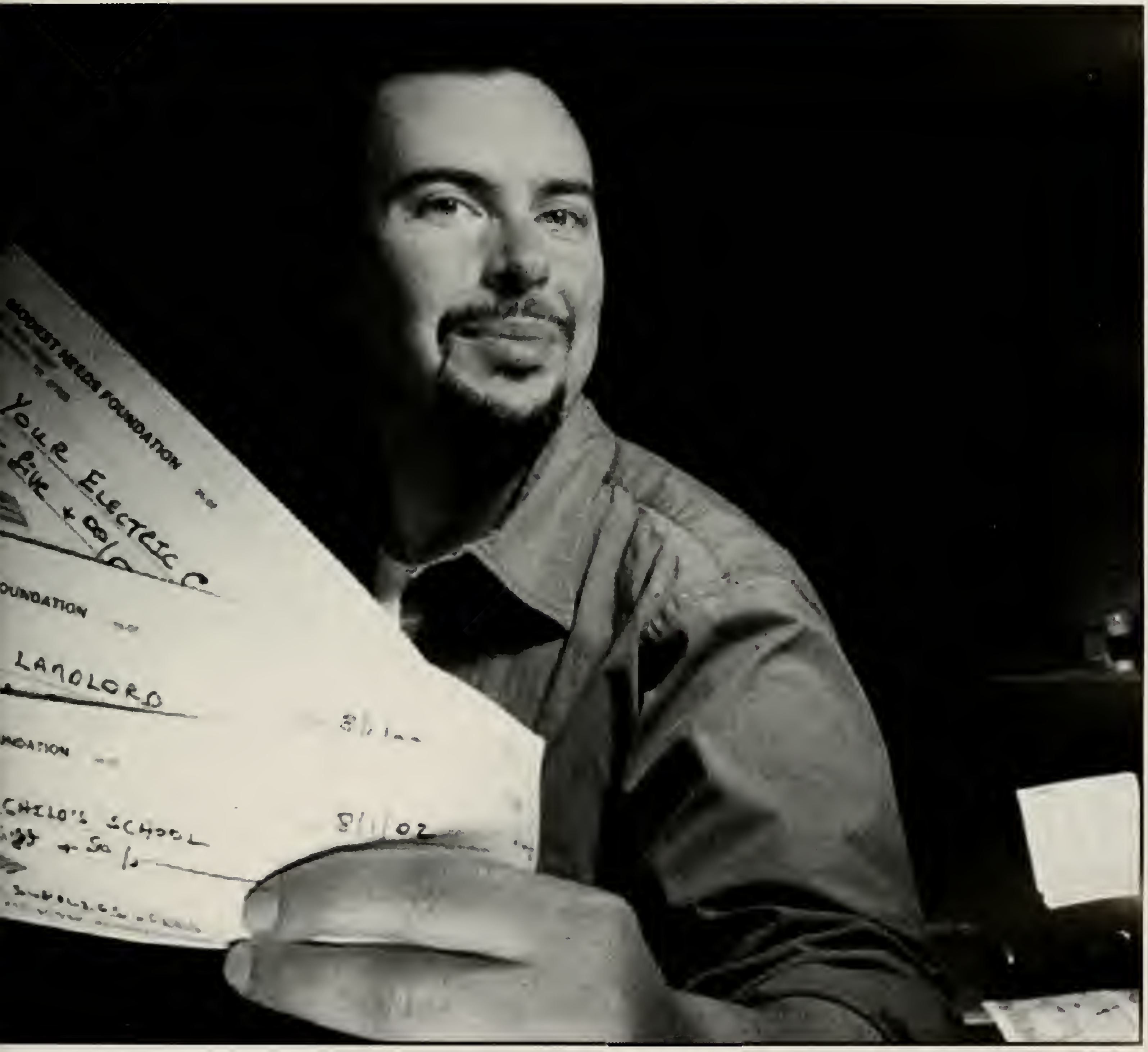

MODEST NEEDS FOUNDATION
YOUR ELECTRIC C
OUNDATION
LANDLORD
CHILD'S SCHOOL
8/1/02

photo courtesy of www.modestneeds.org

ModestNeeds.ORG

Regents Online Degree Program AT MTSU

By [illegible]

Of the more than 20,000 students enrolled in classes here at MTSU, a small number of these students are not what one would call "typical college students." While others are attending classes on campus, these students are able to earn a degree without even stepping foot in the classroom.

In 2001, schools from the Tennessee Board of Regents, including Austin Peay State University, East Tennessee State University, Tennessee State University, Tennessee Tech University, University of Memphis and Middle Tennessee State University became involved with the Regents Online Degree Program. Thirteen two-year community colleges are also involved in the program. But MTSU has the largest enrollment in the program with more than half of all Regents Online Degree Program students registered here.

"In order to meet the needs of many individuals who are unable to regularly attend classes, the university has adopted the Regents Online Degree Program, or RODP, so these individuals can more easily earn a degree from the university," says Grayson Billingham of the MTSU admissions office.

The program was developed to increase access to higher education for adult Tennesseans, especially those with some college experience."

Billingham explains that the RODP is "geared toward working adults who are constrained geographically. Many of the students were once [before] students and now would like to continue their education but are unable to attend classes because of obligations to work and family."

The Tennessee Board of Regents developed the idea for the program while current MTSU President Dr. Sidney McPhee was Executive Vice Chancellor of the TBR. The university adopted the program months before McPhee came to MTSU.

RODP offers six degrees including the Master of Education. The degrees available are Associate of Applied Science in Professional Studies with concentration in Information Technology, Associate of Arts in General Studies, Associate of Science in General Studies, Bachelor of Professional Studies with concentration in Information Technology or Organizational Leadership and Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (Liberal Studies at MTSU). The Southern Association of Colleges accredits the online degree program for all of the colleges and universities within the Tennessee Board of Regents.

The admissions requirements for Regents Degree students are identical to the requirements for other students at each institution. Just like students who attend classes, RODP students may enroll in as many hours they want with a maximum load of 18 hours. Completing 12 hours a semester, an RODP student can complete an associate degree in approximately 5 semesters and a bachelor degree in 10 semesters.

All courses are delivered via the Internet, and students take classes from individuals who are members at one of the TBR institutions. RODP faculty members have received extensive training to ensure that students have a high quality of online education.

Classes generally have a maximum of 20-25 students. One of the program's major perks is that the student can work on their courses anytime and anyplace. For added convenience, everything about the program can be done through the Internet. In regard to communication, email and chat rooms are available for discussion with instructors and other students.

Grades are recorded at the home institution of the student and can be accessed either by phone or online at all TBR institutions. Books can be ordered and shipped to students through the TBR Virtual Bookstore, an online program. In addition, each student has a 24-7 tech help desk available for assistance or questions regarding classes. RODP students have access to the TBR Virtual Library and also have the option of online tutoring for a small charge.

Students with a demanding schedule can complete these courses in 12 weeks as opposed to the regular 15 to 16 weeks campuses offer. Students, in many cases, never have to come to campus.

Fees for the program include regular in-state tuition for each institution at the home school plus an additional 25 percent of the in-state tuition per credit hour. If he or she is out-of-state, the student also pays out-of-state tuition. The added cost is figured in because the RODP courses are designed for anytime and anyplace, allowing 24-7 access and the freedom to complete coursework without having to attend classes. Scholarships and financial aid are available for RODP students.

Everything about the education received by a Regents Degree student is the same as it is for typical students. Transcripts given to future employers will look the same as the transcripts of students who attended classes on campus.

With the addition of new programs such as the Regents Online Degree Program, the state and its universities will continue to encourage Tennesseans to continue their education.

By the numbers:

- Cost per three hour class: $504
- Average number of RODP hours taken per student: 6
- Current number of students enrolled in RODP classes: 890
- MTSU Faculty teaching RODP classes: 9

The construction of the new Miller Coliseum and the Horse Science Teaching Center will give students the opportunity to extend their learning experience beyond the classroom. The horse industry is a field in which skill can only be gained through study, observation, participation and practice. The new center, which will include 40 stalls and more classrooms and faculty offices, will give students a facility in which they can develop themselves and prepare for their chosen careers.

Equine Center

MTSU is hoping to build more than just new facilities for the Horse Science program. By constructing the Miller Coliseum and the Horse Science Teaching Center, the school hopes to provide opportunities that extend beyond the classroom for those students interested in equestrian studies.

"The Horse Industry is a labor intensive career path, and getting the best jobs requires a lot of skill and confidence that can only be acquired through years of study, observation, participation and practice," explains Anne Brzezicki, Director of Equine Laboratories for MTSU.

Study, observation, participation and practice—these four elements of success have been the base of MTSU's Horse Science Program, and the construction of the new buildings will help further this already growing part the university.

The Equestrian Team and the Judging Teams from MTSU come directly from the academic program in horse science, Brzezicki says, and their success regularly puts MTSU in front of the equine public. The Equestrian Team has had national champion individuals, and the team has a sixth place finish in national competition. The judging teams also rank high in the nation. They have had more high point individuals than any other four-year school in the past 10 years. According to Dr. Jerry Williams, a horse science instructor at MTSU and advisor to all horse science majors, MTSU has about 60 horse science majors with another 60 students pursuing a minor in the field.

And new students keep on coming.

"Our Horse Science Program is growing, both in quality and in numbers. We are constantly striving to upgrade the classroom and hands-on experiences of our students. And the horse science students we get here, both from Tennessee and out of state, are getting better every year," Brzezicki comments.

A few of these upgrades are coming in the form of the new Horse Science Teaching Center, a facility that includes faculty offices and classes, says Paul Wright, the project manager for the new buildings. The Teaching Center will also have 40 stalls for the horses, paddocks and, Brzezicki says, "all the equipment we need to take the next step in quality."

"We have been sharing space with the events held at the Tennessee Livestock Center [TLC], which has meant that our class horses must vacate their stalls when a large event comes to the TLC," says Brzezicki. "Also, because the folks at the TLC are cleaning up after a weekend event on Mondays, and having another event beginning on Fridays, our lab classes have had to be compacted into Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday."

Because of these time and space issues, Brzezicki holds the MTSU Equestrian Team practices off campus at her own farm. She says that, with a new center, they will have more productive schedules for the labs and the Equestrian Team, and they will be able to take more consistent care of the horses because they will remain in their own place.

"With our own Teaching Center," Brzezicki says, "we will have time as well as space to give our students the best opportunities to develop themselves and prepare for their chosen careers."

In addition to the Teaching Center, a new arena will be built on the same property. This arena will provide the facilities for students to observe, participate and practice their studies and will be named after John C. and Mary Miller, who bequeathed much of their estate to MTSU specifically for the horse coliseum and teaching center.

The former arena measures close to 220 by 110 feet, Wright says. The Miller Coliseum will be 300 by 150 feet. The Coliseum will have many amenities for show guests and others, such as 4500 seats for the audience, show offices, a judges' lounge, a covered warm-up area and 500 covered stalls for horses, which is 200 more stalls than the previous arena offered.

These new additions will allow MTSU to host events that will not only be beneficial to the learning process of the students here, but that will also bring national recognition to the school. And this recognition might come sooner than you think, as MTSU will host the National Intercollegiate Championship Horse Show in May 2003 when the new Coliseum opens.

With experience from events like the National Intercollegiate Championship Horse Show and facilities such as the Miller Coliseum and the Horse Science Teaching Center available as practice areas, students will have the opportunities to gain the confidence and skills that Brzezicki says are required in their industry.

"There is something really great going on here!", Brzezicki says. "When you take dedicated faculty, great horses and a super facility and mix those with talented and motivated students, wonderful things can happen right under your nose."

story by Heather Hoyer pictures by Elizabeth Gregory

Students Study Abroad in China

by Gina Logue and LaKisha Newby

According to the teaching philosophy of Dr. Richard Hannah, students learn two to three times more when studying abroad because they absorb much more and witness "life-changing" things.

A professor of economics and finance, Hannah says this personal philosophy was confirmed recently when he accompanied MTSU students Ross Hines, Monica Butler, Jeffrey Brian Holmes and Justin Meeks on a summer study-abroad adventure to the southwest region of China.

The MTSU students, along with Hannah and MTSU's Dr. Jun Da, an assistant professor of foreign languages, embarked upon a six-week study abroad that afforded them a first-hand opportunity to study Chinese policies, beliefs, human rights and the Chinese people themselves.

The study-abroad endeavor was sponsored by The Kentucky Institute for International Studies (KIIS), a consortium of colleges and universities, including MTSU, that is dedicated to providing quality international education. Founded in 1975, KIIS was built from the conviction that an international experience should be part of the education of as many people as possible.

During the summer 2002 trip to China, the participating professors taught the students about relevant subjects, such as economics, cultural communications, Chinese history and Chinese business etiquette. And as they studied, they traveled through various areas of the People's Republic of China, including Hong Kong, Kunming of the Yunnan Province, Xi'an and Beijing.

During the trip abroad, the students were able to witness the festivities in Hong Kong for the fifth anniversary of the return of the former British possession to the Chinese government.

For Meeks, the highlight of the trip was Kunming, where most of the students' classes and learning experiences took place. And in Meeks' opinion, Kunming is a region that needs protection from the dominating industries in eastern China.

"I really enjoyed the Yunnan Province," says Meeks, who is an M.B.A. candidate. "Kunming ... is the city of eternal spring, and the weather is always beautiful. Dali and Lijiang are also very great cities, and I will return to Dali if I make it to Kunming again."

Hines says that his favorite part of the trip was simply making new friends with fellow students and with Chinese students. Also, he says, his life perspective changed as he studied abroad in China.

"The Chinese take on life is much different from ours. The students have to work harder than we do and have fewer opportunities than us," he notes. "It [the trip] made me respect and appreciate what I have and can do."

Additionally, he adds, Chinese people take life seriously and tend to be mindful of the things they say and do—things that may affect them now or in the future.

Hannah says he noticed that, although the Chinese people are not averse to discussing their government's human rights abuses, they are very careful about the circumstances under which they speak.

"One on one, they'll talk to you about it," he says. "They're not about to make public statements about it. The farther away you get from Beijing, the more open-minded people are about these things.

"There's a Chinese proverb [which states] 'The mountains are high and the emperor is far away,' Hannah continues. "Through such communication, the students and professors embarked on a learning experience, which taught them about Chinese history, cultural communications and Chinese people themselves."

Nevertheless, communicating with the people in China was fairly easy since some Chinese were able to speak English, Hannah says. In addition, the MTSU students were required to take one hour of Chinese daily to learn the basics of the language.

"I found it much easier to communicate than I thought I would, and by the end of the trip, I could get around and speak enough Chinese to get what I wanted," remarks Holmes, who considers the Chinese people to be very patient and kind.

"Chinese people take life seriously and tend to be mindful of the things they say and do –things that may affect them now or in the future."

–Ross Hines

"The one thing I realized over there was that people in that part of the world want the same thing," Holmes adds. "Sure, the Chinese way of doing things is different, but who expects it to be the same? I was shocked by the influence of western culture, particularly American."

Such influences permeate almost every aspect of culture, Hannah says, including food, fashion, stores and language.

As for the language skills of the Chinese, Hannah says he feels that American students are at a distinct disadvantage, because they aren't required to learn other languages, which is something that other countries demand of their students.

Butler thought the people were "overwhelmingly pleasant and considerate," and no one criticized the American government, she says.

Regarding the trip's lasting impressions, each of the participating students and professors say they enjoyed the visit to China and would go back again if ever presented with such an opportunity.

Consequently, Hannah says, he has formed lasting relationships with some of China's professors and may travel back to teach an M.B.A. program for two to three weeks in Shanghai.

"The key," he says, "is to be open and make contacts."

admissions

(front row) Nancy Kelker, Barry Buxkamper, Terry Thacker, Michael Baggarly; (middle row) Michelle Anderson, Tom Thayer, Jean Nagy, Marisa Recchia, Nadine Hawke; (last row) Andrew Kaufman, Lon Nuell, Mark Price, Bartholomew Nkurumeh, David Shaul, Janet Higgins, Charles Jansen, Ollie Fancher, Christie Nuell. **photo by Elizabeth Gregory**

art

Patricia Grizzle and Wayne Rollins. **photo by Thorton Studios**

cooperative ed

custodians

(first row) Jessie Summers, Rosalee May, William Nelson, Cheyrl Richardson; (second row) Richard Smith, Debra Edwards, Tanya Neville, Sing Zung, Jackie Jones, Debra Swader, Beverly Ranson; (third row) Richard Batey, Brenda Warren, Sinclair Bennett, Frank Smith, Stan Patton, James Rogers; (fourth row) Kirby Hawkins, Maria Pittman, Kelvin Smith, Rodney Binford, Jeff Barrett, Murman Gray. **photo provided**

(front row) John Harris and Amanda Turnbo; (back row) Amy Burks, Amy Cagle and Shirley Travis. **photo by Matthew H. Starling**

disabled services

financial aid

foreign language

(front row) Dr. Sonja Hedgepeth, Professor Rosemary Kew; (middle row) Dr. Irina Willis, Ms. Ruth Watson, Dr. Nuria Novella, Dr. Soraya Nogueira, Professor Rita Maisonneuve, Professor Leah Lyons; (back row) Dr. Nancy Goldberg, Dr. Theresa Rosenhagen, Dr. Thomas Heine, Dr. Deborah Mistron, Dr. Judith Rusciolelli, Dr. Richard Morris, Dr. Shelley Thomas, Dr. Jun Da, Dr. Oscar Diaz.

photo by Elizabeth Gregory

housing

(front row) Laurie Witherow, Steven Clippard, Richard Smith, Sarah Sudak (back row) Joyee Vaughn, Shelley Schklar, Margie Lanler, Rosa May, Sherry House, Dana Byrd, Diana Millsap

(left to right) Steven Marchese, Dallas Burns, Joe Delvin, Dan Madorin, Daniel Wynne, Lowell, Miller, Mike Pintye, Mark Hayner, Brandon Bell, Dana Byrd, Margie Snell, Mike Kennedy, Nick Swindlc

maintenance

placement office

rec center GA's

McNair Scholars

(Front Row) Lisa Walker, Monte Hendrickson, Eddie Lambert, Jr., Margaret Awokoya, Sharon Caton; (Middle Row) Sheila Rich-Lee, Stephanie Renner, Sherry Scott, Amanda Buckmaster, Kirsten Boatwright, Nikayla Boga, Kimberly Johnson, Jeanette Owusu; (Back Row) Brian Winfrey, Brad Bennett, Travis Laurance, Jason Alexander, Ryan Husak. Not pictured Arieta Thomas. **photo by Megan Allender**

Students working toward their doctoral degrees

by Amanda Maynord

When the space shuttle *Challenger* exploded in 1986, no one believed that such a tragic even could ever produce something good that would leave an impact for years to come.

The McNair Scholars Program, however, is one such development that has arisen from that tragedy. In dedication to astronaut Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D., who lost his life in the *Challenger* explosion, the program was created and installed in universities across the country, including MTSU.

McNair was selected in 1978 by NASA to enter the astronaut program, making him one of the first three African-Americans to be selected for the space program.

According to the program's organizers, the post-baccalaureate McNair program was designed to increase the number of financially disadvantaged, first-generation or under-represented college students who pursue and complete the doctoral degree.

The McNair Scholars Program is part of a trio of federally funded programs that help prepare students to seek a doctoral degree. As such, the program offers students the chance to get ready for graduate school and to earn the necessary skills to pass their Graduate Records Exam (GRE) so that they may ultimately enroll in a graduate program at a college or university.

"The program helps to prepare students that might otherwise lose faith and drop out," says Linda Brown, MTSU's coordinator for the McNair Scholars Program.

Students who enter the program must be enrolled in a degree program at MTSU, participate in given summer research internships and have a cumulative grade point average of 2.8 or better.

In turn, participating students are given a monthly stipend to conduct research with professors and their mentors. They must also present their research findings in conferences around the country.

"The program gives you multiple opportunities to publish your work and present your work," says senior Sharon Caton, a McNair scholar at MTSU.

Through the program, Caton says, she has been able to meet at least 35 graduate school representatives, tour graduate schools in Washington, D.C., present her research at conferences in Knoxville, Tenn., and have her research published in professional journals.

To help guide the McNair students along their journey, each student chooses a mentor who provides support and encouragement to the students throughout the graduate process.

"Our goal and purpose is to do whatever it takes to get students into graduate school," says Jennifer Kates, an assistant professor of English and McNair mentor.

Indeed, adds Brown, "Mentors do everything possible to help the student and make them shine above the rest."

Although the program is federally funded, the amount of money needed to appropriate the program is based on a competitive scale. Every four years, the program comes up for review by the Tennessee Higher Education Commis-sion (THEC), causing representatives for the program to compete for more funding.

THEC also determines the number of students who are allowed to enter the program, notes Brown, who adds that this academic year's cap was 20 students.

In 1999, Dr. E. Ray Phillips, associate dean for research and outreach for MTSU's College of Basic and Applied Science, entered his funding proposal. His proposal for funding was granted for the following four years. Although he petitioned for 24 students to be allowed to enter the program, he received funding for only 20 students.

"It [the McNair Program] gives a real-time glimpse into graduate school circumstances and helps to establish a working relationship with mentors in your field," Caton says.

rec center

records

(front row) Crickett Pimentel, Linda Chrysler, Connie Floyd; (back row) Elliott Hamm, Cathy Kirchner, Jennifer Braswell.
photo by Matthew H. Starling

scheduling

STUDENT AFFAIRS
Adult Services Center
Campus Recreation
Counseling & Testing
CUSTOMS (Orientation
Dean of Students
Disabled Student Services
Financial Aid
Fraternitie
Health Serv
Housin
Placement & Stud

Kathy Kano, Francis Rich, Betty Smithson.

student affairs

Developmental Studies

by Melissa Spoonamore

The Developmental Studies program at Middle Tennessee State University is designed to help many students with their extra academic challenges. The program offers five different areas to help students with an academic weakness in a certain subject. Students can receive extra help in reading, writing, math, learning strategies and advising.

Many freshmen wanting to attend Middle Tennessee State University are required to take the COMPASS test. The COMPASS test is composed of math, writing and reading tests. A student's COMPASS test results and a student's ACT or SAT scores are used by the university to determine if a student needs a remedial or developmental course.

Students with low test scores are placed in remedial or developmental classes to help them prepare for regular college classes. Remedial courses are those courses with call numbers in the 0700's. Developmental courses are those classes with call numbers in the 0800's. Remedial courses are on an even more basic level of studies than the developmental courses.

> "Having the Developmental Studies program at MTSU has really helped me to keep my college career on track."
> — Aria Durso, freshman journalism major

Once a student is placed in remedial or developmental classes, they must remain in those classes until all the course requirements are met. These students may, however, enroll in regular college courses that do not have developmental studies classes as prerequisites.

Unfortunately, MTSU plans to eliminate all remedial courses. Remedial classes will be gone in the spring of 2003. Developmental classes will most likely be gone in 18 to 24 months.

These major changes lead to many questions about how future students needing credit in classes like these will obtain it. One option for these students is going to a community college for those credits while still attending other classes at Middle Tennessee State University. Freshman Niki Wyont says, "if I found out that I had to attend a community college as well as MTSU, then I would reconsider my plan to attend MTSU in the first place." Niki's feelings about this plan speak for many past, present and future students with extra academic needs.

Developmental Studies at Middle Tennessee State University is a great program that has led to the success of many students. Two out of every five students who graduate from the university have taken a class in the program. This has been true for many years.

"Having the Developmental Studies program at MTSU has really helped me to keep my college career on track," says Aria Durso, a journalism major. "Without this program I would have had to attend a community college for my extra math credit, which could have slowed me down and been very discouraging," she explains.

> "If the program is taken away, the number of students who actually graduate will probably drop."
> — Developmental Studies Professor
> Dr. Vivian Alley

The state of Tennessee is ranked at the bottom of the list in education in college degrees when compared with the rest of the United States. Developmental Studies Professor Dr. Vivian Alley says, "Statistics show that students who take classes in the program rank about the same as students who immediately enter regular college classes; however, if the program is taken away, the number of students who actually graduate will probably drop."

The official plans for the Developmental Studies program at MTSU and other colleges are very much undecided. Future students needing a program like this will have an even more difficult time trying to receive extra help without Developmental Studies. The official rules and options for students needing this program when it is gone have yet to be established. Ideas for these students include going to a community college and doing online or video classes to fulfill their extra credit requirements. Hopefully, these suggestions for this program will not discourage students from successfully graduating from Middle Tennessee State University.

ADULT Services

Ava De Fonzo, left, and Deanna Jeans, right, diligently work on the computers in the Adult Services Center. Many non-traditional students study at the center when they are not in class. **photo by Nathan Atwood**

by Kacie Gamble

Most students at MTSU have been in a class with a juggler whether they realize it or not. Not the Ringling Brothers Circus kind, these are jugglers of a different sort. In the place of balls or blades, they balance many responsibilities, like school, work, spouses, children and elderly parents.

When it all seems to be too much, these students turn to the Older Wiser Learners (OWLs) organization, which is sponsored by MTSU's Adult Services Center located in the Keathley University Center.

"The club is open to all nontraditional students," says Dr. Carol Ann Baily, director of the Adult Services Center. "This semester, we've had about 200 people pay their dues."

A nontraditional student is anyone enrolled in classes who is age 23 or older. These students compose more than one-third of the student body. However, most students who participate in OWLs have primary responsibilities outside of school, such as a full-time job or children.

OWLs functions in several ways for its members.

"We try to organize social outings like getting a group together to go to a concert on campus," Baily says. "We also hold family events so students can bring their children."

The organization also runs a mentorship program in which new nontraditional students are paired with an upper-class OWLs member.

"This seems to help in the first week or two," Baily says. "If they get discouraged, they have someone to talk to who's been there."

This demonstrates how the organization also serves as a support system. According to an informational pamphlet about OWLs, members can find a shoulder to cry on or get a pat on the back from one another.

"Some people join not for social reasons, but for their voice to be heard," Baily says, describing the advocacy role that OWLs often plays.

The group's members campaign for child and elderly care for students, faculty and staff, more scholarships for older learners and more flexible scheduling of campus hours. Baily attributes the vast increase in evening classes to the OWLs' efforts.

"It's a very different university than it was 10 or 15 years ago when the administration thought that professors wouldn't be willing to teach at night," Baily says.

Many professors have helped advance the OWLs causes. Perhaps this is because the professors appreciate the OWLs' dedication to their coursework. Baily points out that often OWLs are returning to school after years in the job market. They bring with them a work ethic that pays off when final grades are tabulated.

Nontraditional students who excel in their classes are invited to join Pinnacle, a national honor society for students 25 years of age or older. Undergraduates must earn a 3.0 GPA, while graduate students need a 3.4 GPA to join.

Students join Pinnacle for a variety of reasons. One benefit is that the organization sponsors a series of seminars designed to aid student success. Seminar topics include writing papers, study skills and memory retention tips.

Both OWLs and Pinnacle seek to honor outstanding accomplishments, as evidenced by the many awards listed on the Adult Services Center's website. Pinnacle's Award of Achievement recognizes a graduating senior who has overcome great obstacles during his or her course of study. OWLs presents awards to their students and applauds professors and family members who have lent a helping hand.

Though it is unlikely that the knoll will be flooded with people tossing around bowling pins, knives and torches, Baily relates that by graduation day, many nontraditional students have become skilled at juggling their responsibilities.

Lindsay
Nick Fo
Victori
Tiffany

organizations

Man, unlike any other thing organic or inorganic in the universe, grows beyond his work, walks up the stairs of his concepts, emerges ahead of his accomplishments.

-John Steinbeck

Kim Godwin

new greek life Director

by Andre Woods

Over the last few years, Greeks have had a lack of stability due in large part to not having a consistent advisor. That all changed this summer when Kim Godwin took on the role of director of Greek Life.

Godwin joined a sorority early in her collegiate career. "I absolutely loved the sorority that I joined," says Goodwin, "and I loved it from the moment that I went into the house. I became very active within the Greek life right away and loved every bit of it."

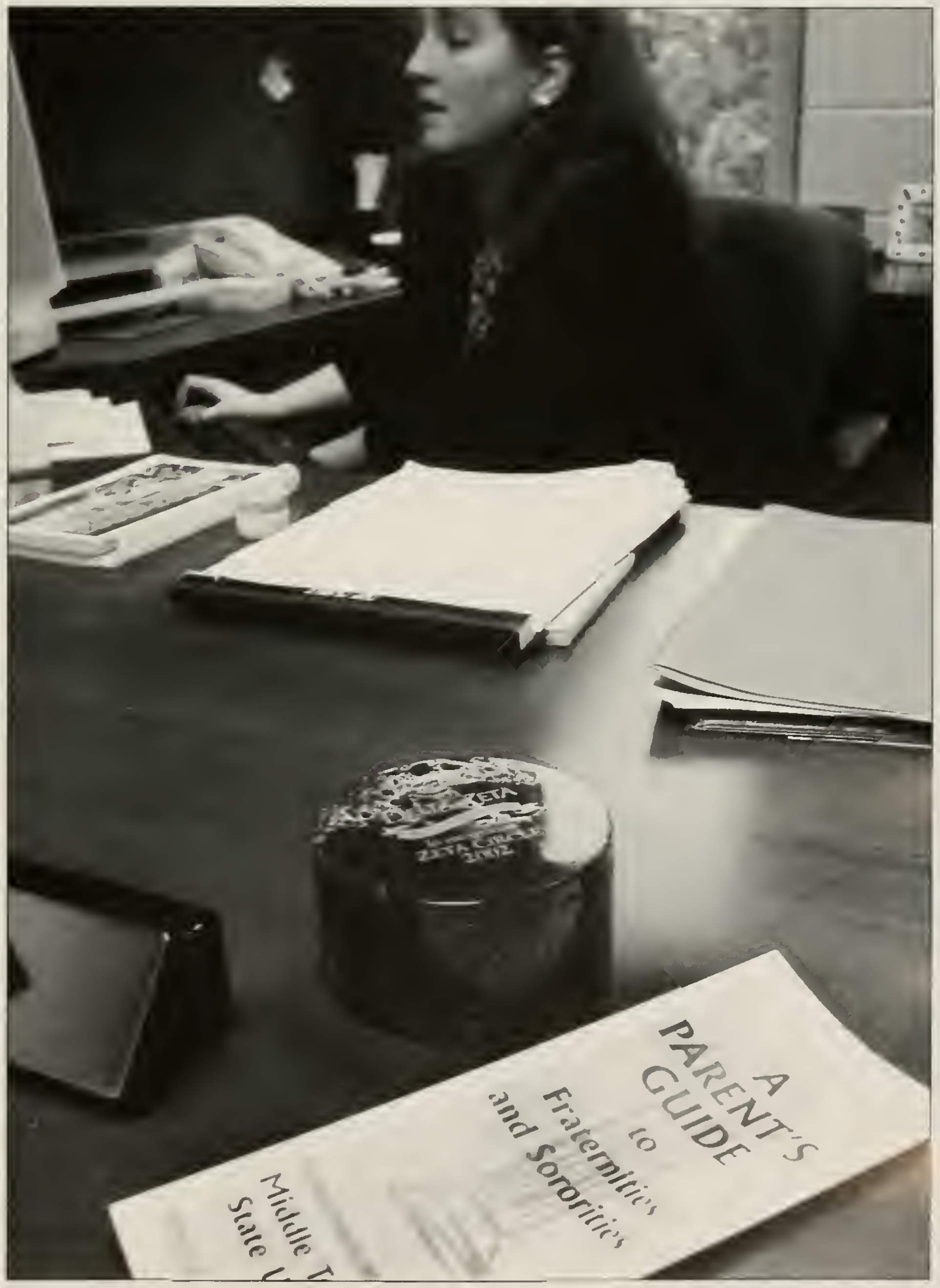
Godwin later transferred to a school that did not have her particular sorority. Missing the interaction within the Greek community, Godwin decided to bring her expertise to a local sorority who had not joined a national chapter yet. "I really missed having that part of my life and that Greek interaction," Godwin recalls. The local sorority did not join Kim's national sorority, so she had to leave. She remained active with her chapter at her old school, which was three hours away, and is still very much involved with her sorority to this day.

Godwin graduated from Belmont University with a History Education degree and went on to pursue her masters in Student Affairs. She interned in Greek Life and decided that this is where she wanted a career. Godwin explains, "It is pretty much a position where you get to do everything all in one traditional system with the same group of people, and so you really get to know them. You get to do student programming, social planning activities, leadership development and community service instead of a position where you only get to do one thing." After two years at another school, she eventually made her way to MTSU where Greek life had been without an advisor for more than a year. "I knew that there would be issues; it is hard to come to a place when they have gone a year without somebody. But on my interview I had a good time, and I felt that this was definitely a place that I needed to be and that I could help them grow, develop a better community and become a stronger part of the campus."

Acting as a liaison between the Greeks and the university and the Greeks and their national organization, Godwin also wants to gain some of the stability that was lost when there was no advisor. She wants to make sure all sides are being heard and to be there if Greeks have any questions or need any guidance.

Many plans that Godwin has for the future are already under work. These plans consist of leadership retreats for Greek officers and members, a "Phase Two" of Greek Row for Greeks who do not have houses now and an overall stronger, more unified Greek community. Godwin explains how she sees her role as director of Greek life, saying "A lot of what people see is the negative things that you see in the news or movies that in no way portray true Greek life, and my job is to help show fraternities and sororities in a positive light, from the insane amount of community hours to the charitable donations that they give each and every year."

With more than 1500 MTSU students belonging to a Greek organization, it cannot be denied that the Greek community is an important part of our university. Kim Godwin wants to make sure it stays that way: "Fraternities and sororities provide leadership opportunities, community service opportunities, social opportunities, academic support, a home away from home and knowing you will have someone there when you need support — everything that a person looks for when they go off to college." With Kim Godwin leading the way, what more can a Greek ask for?


A PARENT'S GUIDE to Fraternities and Sororities
Middle T
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ZETA
ZETA CIRCLE
2002

New Greek Life Director Kim Godwin settles into her new office in the renovated complex in the Keathley University Center. **photos by Matthew H. Starling**

fraternity BID DAY sorority

by Derek Carter

As summer vacation comes to an end and the new school year looms in the distance, Greek men and women of MTSU prepare for fall Recruitment. But Recruitment week is just a small part of the recruiting process. Recruitment week is really the culmination of much planning, hard work and time spent.

"Recruitment is a year-round thing," Panhellenic President Brandy Usher says. "There is more to it than just that one week."

Interfraternity Council President Will Denami agrees, saying, "We do a lot of activities at the beginning of the year for freshmen. We are at customs handing out information, and we also help with 'We-Haul' [freshman move-in]."

Denami also says that the time spent at the beginning of the year becoming familiar with the names and faces of the new freshman class is beneficial for both the freshmen and the upperclassmen, adding, "It helps make Recruitment week a little more comfortable for everybody involved."

Sorority and fraternity Recrtuitment weeks are not held at the same time, but there are similarities between the two. One of the most important of these similarities is the opportunity for freshmen — men and women alike — to meet a vast number of people.

"You meet so many people just going through Recruitment that you wouldn't meet otherwise," Usher says. "Whether you decide to go Greek or not, I say at least try going through [Recruitment]. There's really nothing to lose."

Denami explains that the most important job during the Recruitment process is not to convince a person to join an organization but to promote the Greek system in general.

"It's important to show the positive benefits – how [the Greek system] can help an individual," he says. "One of the most common misconceptions is that Greeks do nothing but party, but there's a lot more to it than that."

Denami says that Greek organizations promote academics and are great for individual networking.

Usher adds that a large part of being in a fraternity or sorority involves charity events, philanthropies and community service.

"The parties and formals and other fun stuff are just a reward," she says.

Usher also acknowledges that the Greek system encourages campus involvement: "A lot of leaders on campus and even customs groups leaders are Greeks," she says.

Freshmen have plenty of choices when it comes to choosing which Greek organization to join. There are 28 fraternities and sororities on campus, each with something different and unique to offer an individual.

There are things that Usher and Denami say that are important to remember when going through the recruitment process.

"Be open-minded," Usher says. "Feel like an asset."

Denami says that a person should join "where they feel most comfortable," rather than where his or her best friend joins.

The most important thing, they say, is for a person to be him or herself.

"Your letters don't define you as a person," Usher says. "Just because you join [an organization] doesn't mean you lose yourself."

Left: Delta Zeta members prepare before the announcements of their new sorority sisters are made. Much time is put into welcoming and choosing the new members of each sorority.

Below: Alpha Delta Pi members welcome their new little sisters and go around the room telling their names and something about themselves. The new recruits are accepted into their new sorority with open arms.
photos by Amy Taylor

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alpha delta pi

step show

step show

Alpha Delta Pi

ΑΔΠ

sororities

ΑΔΠ

The members of Alpha Delta Pi went to the Ronald McDonald House in Nashville for their philanthropy event. While they were there, they spent time with the children and prepared food. **photos by Megan Allender**

Nashville
Ronald McDonald House
ΑΔΠ

Alpha Kappa Alpha

The members of Alpha Kappa Alpha opened a library on Womack Lane for the children that live in the family apartments. The women worked all year to gather books and funds in order to provide the children with quality books to read. The opening ceremony for the Mary Scales Children's Library was on December 7. **photos by Matthew H. Starling**

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reek Life

Alpha Omicron Pi

ΑΟΠ

photos provided

sororities

ΑΟΠ

Alpha Omicron Pi is dedicated to supporting arthritis research. The importance of finding the cause and cure for arthritis is Alpha Omicron Pi's reason for making Arthritis Research its international philanthropy. MTSU's Rho Omicron chapter supports this cause by having an Annual Smoke Arthritis Barbecue, which raised over $16,000 in 2002. Rho Omicron also participates in and donates over $500 to the Arthritis Foundation Walk annually. Alpha Jam, another event planned by Rho Omicron, raises awareness that "kids get arthritis too." All funds raised at this event support the American Juvenile Arthritis Organization. Alpha Omicron Pi's local philanthropies include St. Clair Senior Center, Project Help and Special Kids in Murfreesboro.

photos by Megan Allender

Alpha Phi Alpha

ΑΦΑ

photos provided

ΑΦΑ

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., has three national philanthropies that the Kappa Xi chapter suports every semester: "Go To High School, Go To College," "A Voteless People, Is A Hopeless People" and "Project Alpha."

"Go To High School, Go To College" is a program designed to encourage the younger generation of students to stay in school. The members of Alpha Phi Alpha bring a class of middle school students to the campus and introduce them to college life. Several faculty members come and talk to the students about financial aid, admission requirements and various aspects of campus life. The students are also taken on a campus tour, which includes a tour of the campus Recreation Center, campus library and dorm rooms. The students get to sit in on a class taking place.

"A Voteless People, Is A Hopeless People" involves getting people on campus, as well as in the surrounding community, more involved in voting. Each semester, the chapter holds a voters' registration drive, and goes door to door to increase the enrollment of minority voters.

"Project Alpha" is a mentoring program where members of the fraternity mentor young African American males, ages 11 - 16. The program teaches the young males to be positive role models in their communities.

Chi Omega

ΧΩ

Chi Omega Fraternity produced its 33rd annual Mr. MTSU pageant last spring to benefit their national philanthropy, The Make-A-Wish (MAW) Foundation. The total amount of money raised this year was the highest to date with over $5,000 in ticket sales. Special guests attending the pageant were Jessica, MAW child whose wish was granted through last year's program; Tanya Sturm, director of Middle TN MAW; and celebrity emcee Lance Smith of Country Music Television. The proceeds from this year's program went to sponsor five-year-old Gracen's wish to go to Disney World in July.

ΧΩ

BID DAY 2002
Chi Omega
Bid Day 2002

photos provided

Delta Zeta

ΔZ

Delta Zeta's national philanthropy is the speech and hearing impaired. The Iota Iota chapter held its second annual "Rockin' Around the Clock" Rock-A-Thon Jan. 23, 2002. The members of Delta Zeta rocked continuously from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. taking donations for the Middle Tennessee State University Speech and Hearing Clinic. Members of Iota Iota also visited three area high schools during the school's lunch hour to take donations. Iota Iota reached its goal by taking in over $1,500.

ΔZ

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Kappa Alpha

KA

KA

The members of Kappa Alpha traveled to a children's hospital in Brentwood. They took a monetary donation and spent a majority of the day playing with the children. **photos by Amy Jones**

Kappa Alpha Psi—

ΚΑΨ

photos provided

Kappa Alpha Psi's philanthropic event was to bring AIDS activist Rae Lewis Thornton to campus and speak of her experience with AIDS. The safe sex lecture was held in the Business and Aerospace State Farm room. A safe sex table was also set up on the KUC knoll prior to the lecture, that raised more than $500 for AIDS research.

Pi Kappa Alpha

DAWGS
G
& GIRLS CLU
RUTHERFORD COUNTY
MT
GOLDEN KEY

ΠΚΑ

ΠΚΑ

For their philanthropy event, the members of Pi Kappa Alpha held a fall festival for the local Boys & Girls Club in their backyard on Greek Row. The festival included games, prizes and food.
photos by Brady Purnell

Pi Kappa Phi

fraternities

ΠΚΦ

ΠΚΦ
ΠΚΦ
ΠΚΦ
PATRIOT HOOPS
MIDDLE TENNESSEE
Eddie's
DUKE

photos provided

Pi Kappa Phi's philanthropic event is Push America, a non-profit organization that was founded in 1977 and remains the exclusive service learning project of Pi Kappa Phi. Its purpose is instilling lifelong service in our fraternity members and serving people with disabilities.

This semester, the Delta Iota chapter held three fund raising events. There was the first annual Give-a-Push, Give-a-Pull Tug of War tournament, the local area glow-stick sale and the awareness dinner at the Wesley Foundation. Pi Kappa Phi raised nearly $2000 for PUSH America as a result of the three events.

Sigma Chi

The Sigma Chi Fraternity supports the Children's Miracle Network as our national philanthropy. We raise funds for the network through miscellaneous fundraisers dispersed throughout the year and during our yearly weeklong drive, Derby Days. The brothers of Middle Tennessee State's Eta Gamma chapter work all day collecting donations for CMN. There is also a different fundraiser each night. Last Derby Days, raised more than $2000.

EX

photos provided

reek Life

Zeta Phi Beta

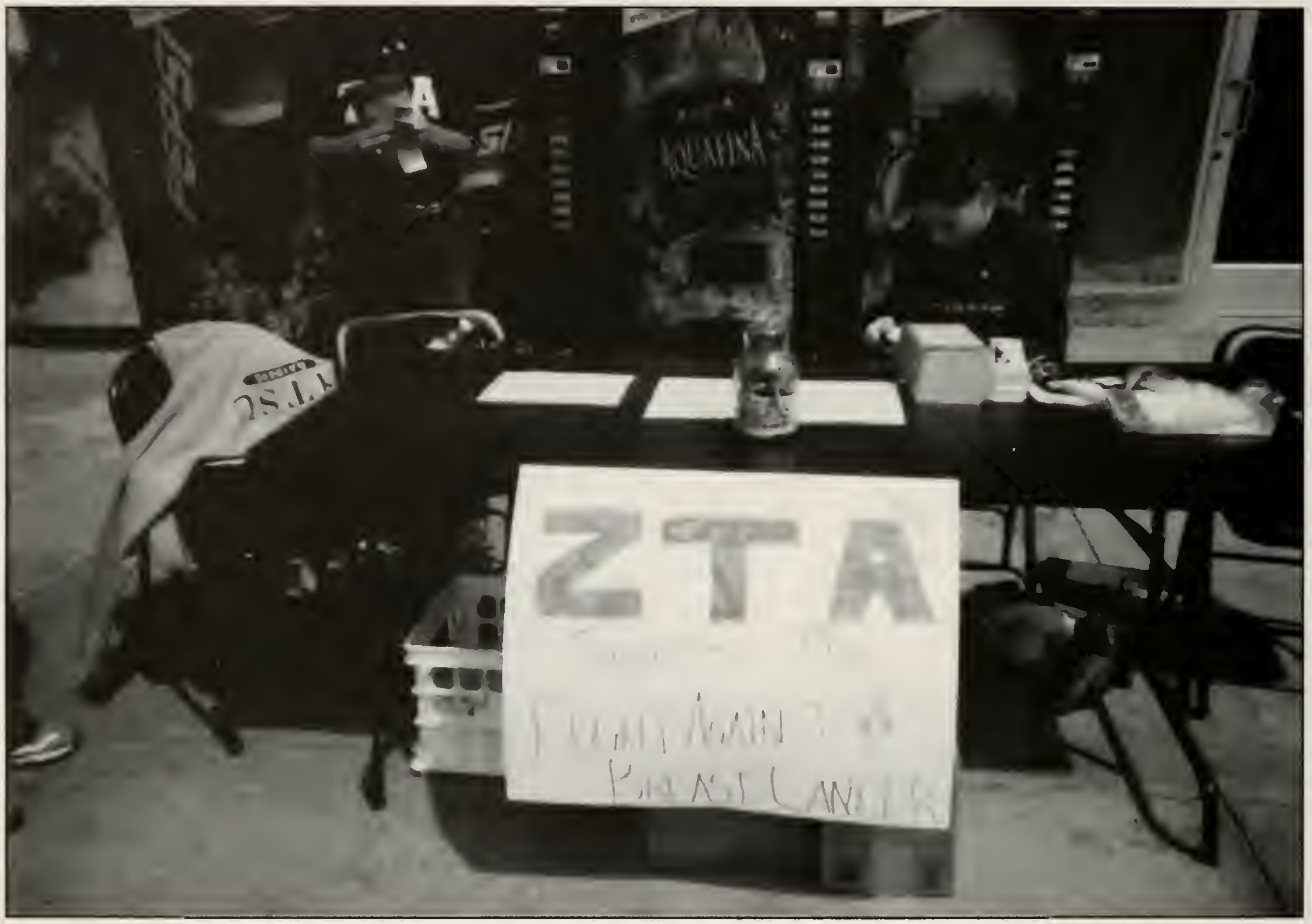
ΖΦΒ

The Zeta Phi Beta sorority supports the March of Dimes as its philanthropic project. In 1972, the sorority launched a branch program from the March of Dimes called Stork's Nest. The Nest is where expectant mothers referred by cooperating hospitals, clinics and health centers can get necessary items, such as maternity clothes, layettes and furniture, at minimal or no cost. Stork's Nest also attempts to educate these expectant mothers, covering a seven element curriculum: prenatal care, nutrition, drugs, alcohol/smoking, genetics, infant care and parenting. In addition, Zeta Phi Beta has donated over $45,000 to the March of Dimes' Walk America race to aid in the fight to save the lives of babies.

ZΦB

reek Life

Zeta Tau Alpha


AQUAFINA
ZTA
Breast Cancer

ZTA

ZTA

The national philanthropy of Zeta Tau Alpha is The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. This organization is dedicated to breast cancer awareness, education, screening and research. The ladies of the Iota Chi chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha participate and volunteer at the annual Race for the Cure Series in Nashville as well as participate in Don't Be a Fool, where they hand out information about breast cancer. Lypsync, a variety competition put on by the ladies of ZTA, is their main fundraiser for The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

MEMPHIS PROS

Student Organizati

Alpha Theta Omega

MTSU's New Christian Sorority

Members of the new christian sorority enjoy fun and fellowship at a party held by the founding members. **photo provided**

by Sarah Palmer

In the fall of 2002, Alpha Theta Omega joined MTSU's over 175 organizations as the first Christian affiliated sorority in the school's history. It was started by two of a set of triplet sisters, Alisha and Aileen Vaughn, who had for a long time wanted to join a sorority but did not want to risk compromising their values as Christian women. After talking to many of their friends and fellow Christians, they realized that many more Christian women on campus were in the same predicament. So the two sisters sat down to discuss the possibility of a Christian sorority on campus. And thus, Alpha Theta Omega was born.

Through talking to other girls like themselves, the Vaughn sisters found Shalynda Parker, Nikeha Murry and Carmen Chandler, and together they became the charter members of Alpha Theta Omega.

However, when it comes to attracting new members, one of the things the five girls are hoping for is diversity. Alpha Theta Omega is open to all Christian women, regardless of age, ethnic background or religious denomination. "We don't want anything to become a hindrance to the ministry," explains founder Alisha Vaughn.

While Vaughn considers the fall semester to be mainly a learning experience, she and her sorority sisters already have some important goals set for Alpha Theta Omega: "I really hope we all come together by the end of the year spiritually."

The five girls also hope to promote Christian love and unity not only on campus, but also throughout the Murfreesboro and Rutherford county area.

Just like any other sorority on campus, they want community service to be a large part of their sorority experience. So far, one of the proposed projects has been to participate in a mentoring program at a local church. Alisha Vaughn adds, "I hope for Alpha Theta Omega to work hands on with other sororities and fraternities across campus," as well.

The five charter members, even though their sorority is new, already have high hopes for the future. So for students looking to grow spiritually with other Christian women, MTSU definitely provides an opportunity in Alpha Theta Omega.

Alpha Eta Rho

Anthropology Society: (front row) Dan Brock, field secretary; Jennifer Brown, house secretary; Michelle Lawson; Amy Harris. (back row) Debbie Leyhew; Rachael Edmonds, vice president; Greg Cannon; Bruce Burton, president; Chris Simpson. **photo by Jamie Brown**

Student Organizatio

Channel 10: Derrelle Jamison, Danielle Colburn, Marcy Clemons, Kane Deason, Susan Dooley, Jessica Patton, Ceylon Wise, Ashley Brooks, Dara Smith, Ben Chiles, David Knies, Bart Barker, Chris Childers, Jenna Beffre, Paul Bishop, Matthew Parriott, Woody Herbert, Keri Braswell, Justin Davis, Brooke Mangrum, Casey Maddin, Bart Cumarata, Regina Raccuglia, Terra Grant, Rachel Sain, Virginia Dumoulin, David Reed, Kevin Dunn

Channel 10 Management: (from left to right) Bart Cumarata, Regina Raccuglia, Terra Grant, Rachel Sain, Virginia Dumoulin, Marcy Clemons, David Reed, Kevin Dunn. not pictured—Terrence Garrett, Jason Dutton. **photos by Amy Jones**

ns

CIRCLE K CLUB
INTERNATIONAL
K
CIRCLE
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Circle K: (front row) Justin Ward, Leah Leonard, Roseanne Susak, Laura Filtness, Stephanie Malone (middle row) Yashica Robinson, Kristen Hooper, Becky Pickering, Jessica Eckart, Lucy Goodwin, Lara James (last row) David Rivenbark, Hugh Thomas Rader, Steve Fuchcar (Kiwanis Advisor), Lauren Fuchcar, Wes Wooden, Josh Burlison, Travis Lawrence. **photo by Megan Allender**

Golden Key

Golden Key International Honour Society is an organization that recognizes the top 15 percent of juniors and seniors in all fields of study. MTSU's chapter joins the more than 300 colleges and universities in the United States, Australia, Canada, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa, and the United Kingdom who participate in Golden Key.

Officers for the 2002-03 year are: Fall President Erica Smith, Spring President Stan Lacy, Vice President Lori Stephens, Vice President for Membership Communication Brandon Hanson, Treasurer Joey Montalbano, Secretary Samantha Cherry and Historian Sara Lockett. They hope to carry out the organization's mission through scheduled activities. This mission is to recognize and encourage scholastic achievement and excellence in all fields of study, to unite with faculty and administrators in developing and maintaining high standards of education, to provide economic assistance to outstanding members by means of both undergraduate and graduate scholarships and to promote altruistic conduct through voluntary service.

With more than 400 members, MTSU's chapter is actively involved in all aspects of campus life, with public service projects being one of the main objectives. Members annually participate in Make a Difference Day and America's Promise activities. They also sponsor the annual Stress Out Day on campus and participate in fund-raising projects such as the Heart Walk, Relay for Life and the Memory Walk to benefit Alzheimer's Disease.

This year, the society partnered with football head coach Andy McCollum to sponsor Andy Mac's Kids to bring physically challenged and underprivileged children to MTSU's home football games. With some local sponsorships and fund-raising events, this project will become an annual event at local games.

Golden Key was founded Nov. 29, 1977, at Georgia State University in Atlanta, by a group of highly motivated undergraduate students. Since that time, the society has established itself as a positive force in higher education. More than 1,000,000 lifetime members and 13,000 honorary members, including Nobel Prize winners and political leaders, are proud of their association with this dynamic organization.

Above: Sandi Owens, regional director for Golden Key, addresses new members at MTSU's spring induction held April 15, 2002.

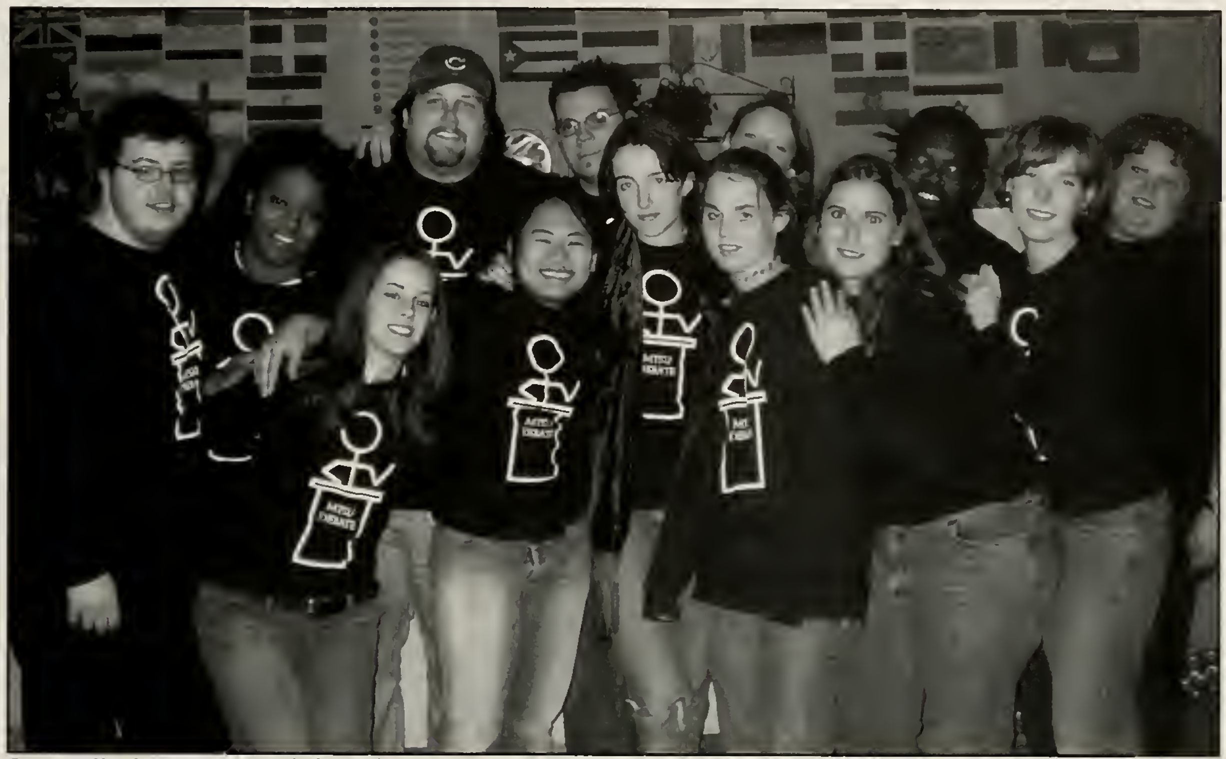
Top, opposite page: Jennings and Rebecca Jones, Dr. Bob Glenn and Charlie Myatt are newly inducted honorary members of MTSU chapter. They are shown with the 2001-02 officers following the induction.

Bottom, opposite page: Adviser Jenny Tenpenny Crouch and members are shown on the steps of the KUC following a meeting.

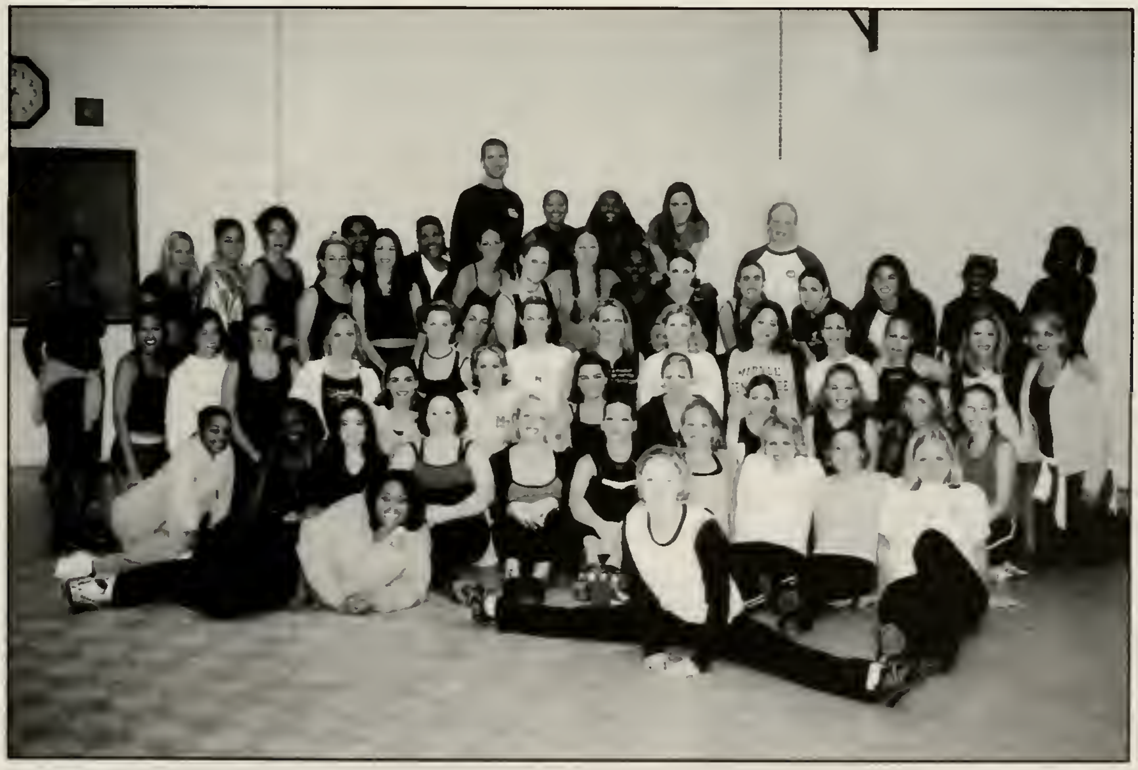
Student Organizati

Foreign Students: (left to right) Aaron Bennett, Dr. Scott Seipel, Nam Rogozinski, Tonya Pongpituck, Cathy Mize, Deanna Archer, Angela Moses. **photo by Matthew H. Starling**

Hockey Club: (laying down) Chris Evans; (bottom row) Kevin Cook; Joey Torento; Kevin Spann, president; Johnny Dilg; Jay Tolley; (top row) Dr. Vance Austin, coach; Ken Ward, vice president; Mike Holt; Anthony Moffit; Michael Busby; Andrew Shoff; Jesse Charles. **photo by Rob Evans**



Intercollegiate Debate: (left to right) Okey Landers, Markesha Vaughn, Callie Greenway, John Mast, Vantha Choun, John Schweri, Tierra McMahon, Sara Weedman, Heather Cannon, Courtney Carver, Drew Butler, Erika Chambers, Anna-Marie Honeycutt. **photo provided**



Middle Tennessee Performing Arts Company
photo provided

Student Organizatio

MPRO

marijuana policy refrorm organization

Do you have loved ones who smoke marijuana? Better yet, would you like to see them arrested, their records forever tarnished for inhaling smoke from a plant that grows in the wild?

The war on drugs in America, in recent years, has become a war fought against its own people. And according to the book *Marijuana Reconsidered* by Harvard psychiatrist Dr. Lester Grinspoon, marijuana-a drug popular among many high school and college students–has brought that war to campuses nationwide.

MPRO (Marijuana Policy Reform Organization) is an organization whose members believe there should be reforms in drug laws to exclude the use of marijuana as a crime. MPRO members believe that all laws prohibiting the use of marijuana are too harsh and intrude on Americans' freedom, says Sherry Landtroop, a senior at MTSU and president of the organization.

Landtroop says the organization's mission is relatively basic. "Our ultimate goal," she says, "is to be recognized by the university as an official organization and to become an official chapter of NORML," which is the National Organization to Reform Marijuana Laws. To become a chapter, she adds, the group must have at least five members of the 20 students pay $25 and register.

"The most important thing we can do as an organization is to get students involved in voting," she adds. "Adults should have the right to use marijuana responsibly, whether medically or recreationally," she continues. "All penalties, both civil and criminal, should be eliminated for responsible use."

The law that upsets her most is the Higher Education Act. "This act denies all federal funds to students who have been priorly convicted of a drug charge," she says, "wher murderers and rapists can still get those funds."

More than 20 students turned out for the group's first meeting. Students from all walks of life came together for a common purpose, the legalization of marijuana. "I wanted to give my support and find out what the organization is about," says sophomore Brittany Reeves, who says she thinks the drug war needs a lot of reform.

Landtroop says one of the key events the organization had to plan for was an on-campus debate that featured *High Times* magazine editor Steve Hagar and 25-year Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) veteran Robert Stupman. Following the debate, Hagar signed autographs at a local retail store where *High Times* is sold.

The most important part of the group's stance is a member's vow of abstinence from foreign substances for as long as he or she is part of the organization, says the group's treasurer, Ryan Young. "We are trying to raise awareness for the reform of marijuana laws," Young explains. "We won't [use substances] because it will hurt the image of our cause and our organization." He adds that this is a stance that all of the officers will take.

Junior Tim Poland serves as the group's advertising agent by placing flyers around campus and writing in chalk everywhere possible to get the word out about the organization. He says he wishes that students would quit taking the flyers down because it takes him so long to put them up. "The word that is more important to this organization than reform," he says, "is involvement."

Student Pagan Organization

by Brendan McKennedy

Student Pagan Organization: David Neal, Sarah Burdette, Marla Henry, D. Daly.
photo by Megan Allender

Five pagans sit straggled across a large conference room. They sit on tabletops and in chairs, or sprawl on the floor, volleying quips, interrupting each other, laughing.

These members of MTSU's Student Pagan Organization are trying to find a definition of "pagan" that they all agree upon.

Sitting cross-legged on the carpet, S.P.O founding member John Bryan sums up the dilemma with the droll rhythm of a recitation: "Ask ten different pagans what a pagan is, and you'll get twelve different answers."

David Neal, a current member of the organization, explains that a pagan is a follower of a religion that is generally polytheistic or pantheistic, and that is based outside of what he calls the "Big Three:" the Islamic, Judaic, and Christian traditions.

"The problem is, with paganism you can't make generalizations, because everybody has an individual world view," says Dee Daly, another member.

A pagan cultivates his or her spiritual path through intense and ongoing research and soul-searching. Bryan, who mixes Egyptian, Wiccan and Shamanist beliefs, likens his combination of traditions to soup. "You start out with the basic pot of water, and you add bits and pieces of what you like, and start cooking it in your mind and your heart, and what comes out is dinner," he says.

Ironically, heterogeneity is the constant that seems to draw pagans together. Although the S.P.O. engages in community service, the organization functions primarily as a base of support for students who discover their spirituality along the lesser-traveled roads of religion and who know no one to whom they can relate on a spiritual level. Bryan says he was surprised to see 40 other attendees at the S.P.O.'s first meeting in 1997. "I didn't know there were that many pagans in the entire state of Tennessee," he says. His experience is not uncommon.

Often, though, isolation is not a pagan's highest hurdle. These people seem comfortable with each other, but hints of troubled experience occasionally surface in each of them: a wariness in Bryan's eyes, a note of wryness in Daly's voice, Henry's pensive silence, Neal's careful qualifications.

Steven Gaddis, a prospective member attending his first S.P.O. meeting tonight, sits away from the rest of the group, listening quietly, his arms folded in front of his chest – until the subject of intolerance arises.

On the other hand, Neal points out, the S.P.O. has had success with fostering understanding. He cites the annual Allfaith Dinner, which the organization has hosted since 1999. Inspired by the Dar Williams song, "The Christians and the Pagans," in which the two religious groups of the title sit down to a Christmas dinner to work out their differences, the S.P.O. invites representatives from other religious groups on campus to sit and share a meal with them. The dinner has been a great success. "Representatives from all other groups come, and it's always been a very positive experience," Neal says.

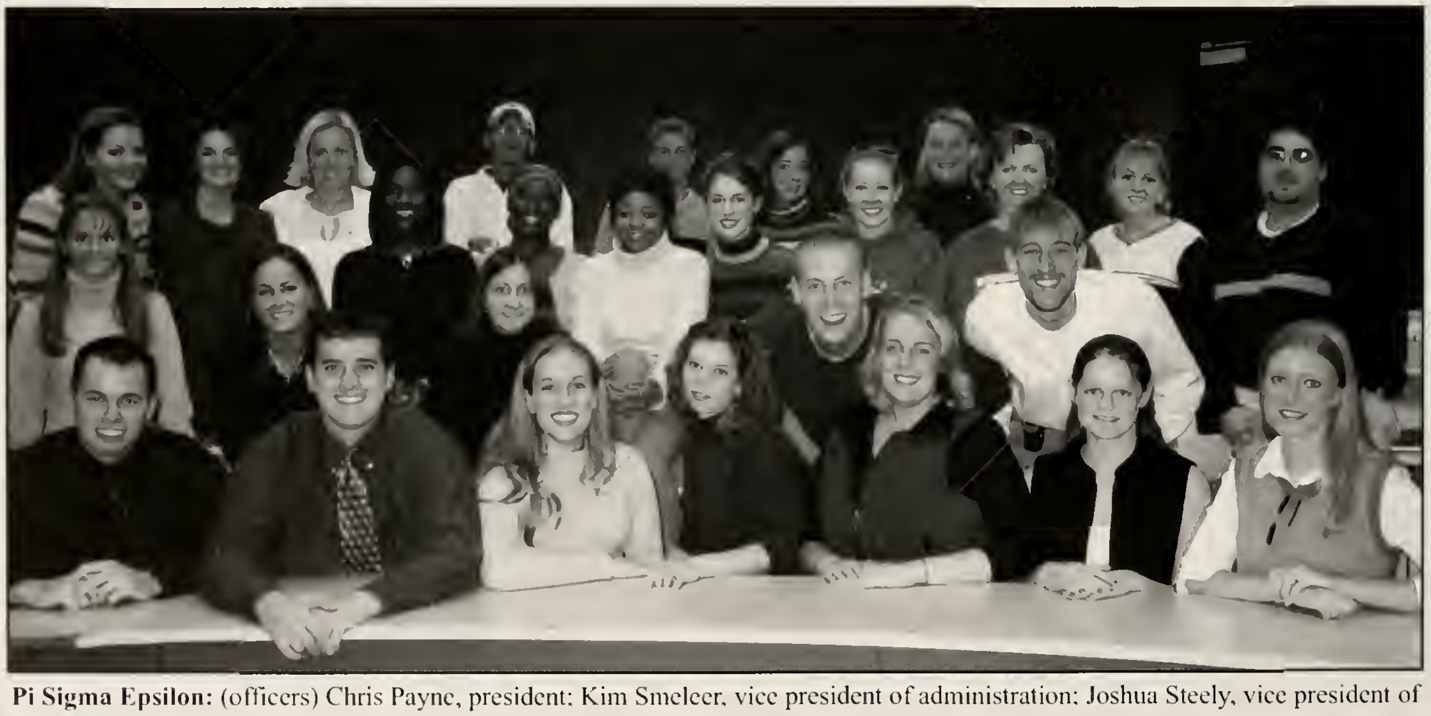
Daly stresses that Murfreesboro is an open-minded town. She estimates that 25 percent of the population here follows religions other than Islam, Judaism and Christianity. "This is not just the buckle of the Bible Belt," she says.

Neal concurs: "It's basically the buckle of the religious belt."

"The South," Daly says, "is just a very spiritual area."

Student Organizati

NAACP: (first row) Ave Trotter, vice president; Shakena Williams, secretary; Julius Graham, president; (second row) Chris Cullom; William Leak; Kevin Matthews; Jamie Woodruff, assistant secretary; LaVondia Jones; Shannon Tate; (third row) Jonathan Long, treasurer; Esparonda Waller, assistant treasurer; Monica Rucker; Shawna Jackson. **photo by Megan Allender**



Pi Sigma Epsilon: (officers) Chris Payne, president; Kim Smeleer, vice president of administration; Joshua Steely, vice president of human resources; Kim Ridley, vice president of marketing; Russell Furney, vice president of public relations; Jullie Myer, vice president of finance. **photo by Elizabeth Gregory**

ns

MIDDLE TENNESSEE
ROOKIE MISTAKE

Rookie Mistake: American Concrete Institute Student Chapter
photo provided

Ryu Kaitou Anime Club of MTSU
photo by Jamie Brown

Student Organizati

Sports Club Advisory Board
photo by Jamie Brown

Student Ambassadors: (front row) Michelle Gadson, Kristina Latta, Erin Pauls, Ashanti Smoot, Kyna Kyles, Misty Holt, Latonya Irons, Marilyn Ridner, Amy Calloway, Jessica Heim; (middle row) Stephanie Plemons, Christa Clancy, Ashley Elizabeth Graham, April Richardson, Cara Francis, Amanda Newman, Brittany Rogers, Ashley Brooks; (back row) John Festervand, Stephen Cash, Jeremiah Lawson, Casey Peddicord, Timothy Scotton, Skylor Morgan. **photo provided**

Tau Omicron: (front row) Michelle Sudberry, Jessica Heim, Amber Elkins, Allison Lunsford, Amy Calloway; (back row) Monique Paris, Jennifer Doyle, Julie Spires, Erica Smith, Charlotte Newbill, Dr. Jackie Eller. **photo by Megan Allender**

PREDATOR
POLO

Up Til Dawn
photo by Jamie Brown

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On
Non-Faculty Sick Leave Bank
dle Tennessee State Univers
Enrollment
October 1-31

VERS

athletics

A man can be as great as he wants to be. If you believe in yourself and have the courage, the determination, the dedication, the competitive drive and if you are willing to sacrifice the little things in life and pay the price for the things that will be worthwhile, it can be done.

-Vince Lombardi

by Colleen Cox

The baseball team struggled through five, seven and nine-game losing streaks to finish eighth in the Sun Belt Conference in 2002 after winning the SBC championship the year before.

The Blue Raiders lost several players from their championship team and relied on several young players to fill those spots. Sophomore John Williams took over the top spot in the rotation after Dwone Brazelton was drafted by the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

Williams got off to a great start, posting a 5-0 record and striking out 26 hitters in 17 2/3 innings of work against Southwest Missouri State and Austin Peay. However, his season came to a premature end when he broke his hand punching a water cooler.

"No one feels any worse about the injury than John, but he also knows that he has no one to blame but himself for what happened," said head coach Steve Peterson. "John will learn more from this than any win, loss or practice could ever teach him. He will take a lesson from this that he will remember for the rest of his life."

MT also got great production from freshmen Josh Archer and Nate Jaggers. Archer earned a spot on the All-Sun Belt First Team. Archer played first base and catcher and served as the designated hitter. He ended the season with a .347 average, 9 home runs and 34 RBIs.

"What a very pleasant surprise for us," Peterson said. "Josh has been a designated hitter, catcher and played the last third of the season at first base and done an outstanding job."

Jaggers was named Freshman All-American by *Collegiate Baseball*. Jaggers finished fourth on the team in batting average and home runs and was third in RBIs.

"I'm very excited about this award," Jaggers said. "I just hope that it helps get our university and our program some recognition."

Senior Marshall Nisbett made the All-Sun Belt Second Team, and junior Justin Sims made the first team. Sims led the team in batting average, home runs and RBIs. Nisbett hit .361 with 50 RBIs.

MTSU
BLUE RAIDE
9
33
35

Above, right: Starting freshman pitcher Chase Swing winds up for the pitch.

Bottom, right: #9 Brent Carroll, freshman third baseman, takes the throw from #33 Adam Larson as a Western Kentucky runner attempts to steal third base. Larson, a senior starting pitcher, signed with the Chicago White Sox.

Opposite page: #3 Justin Sims, named to the All-Sun Belt Conference First Team, signed with the Minnesota Twins. **photos provided by Photo Services**

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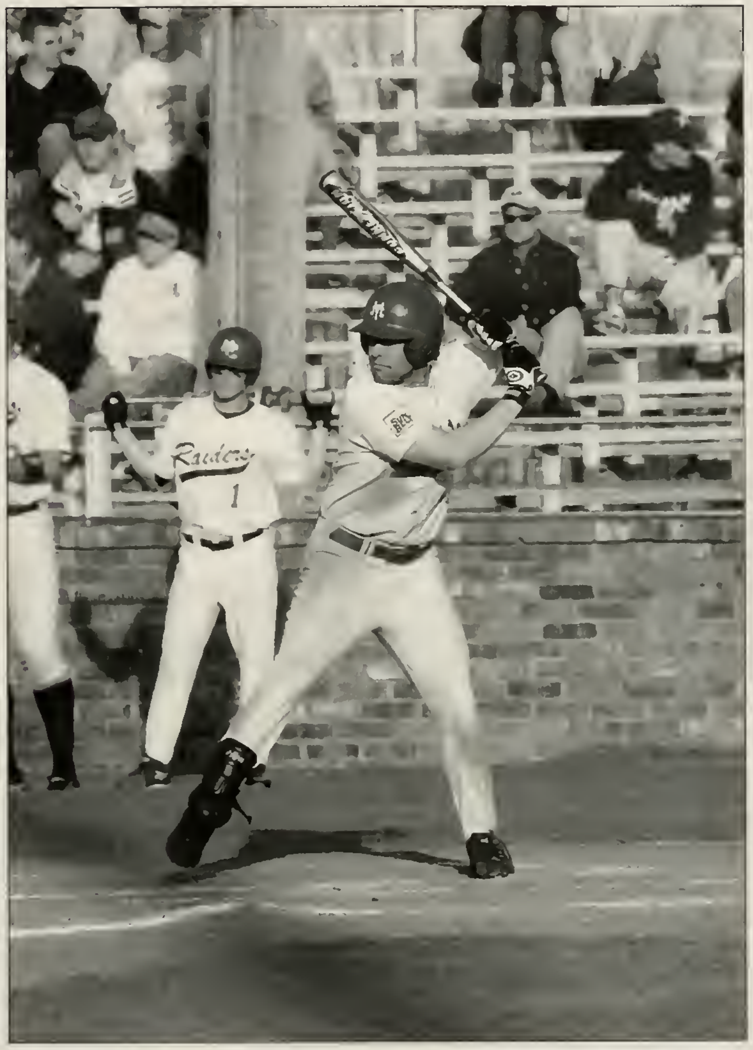
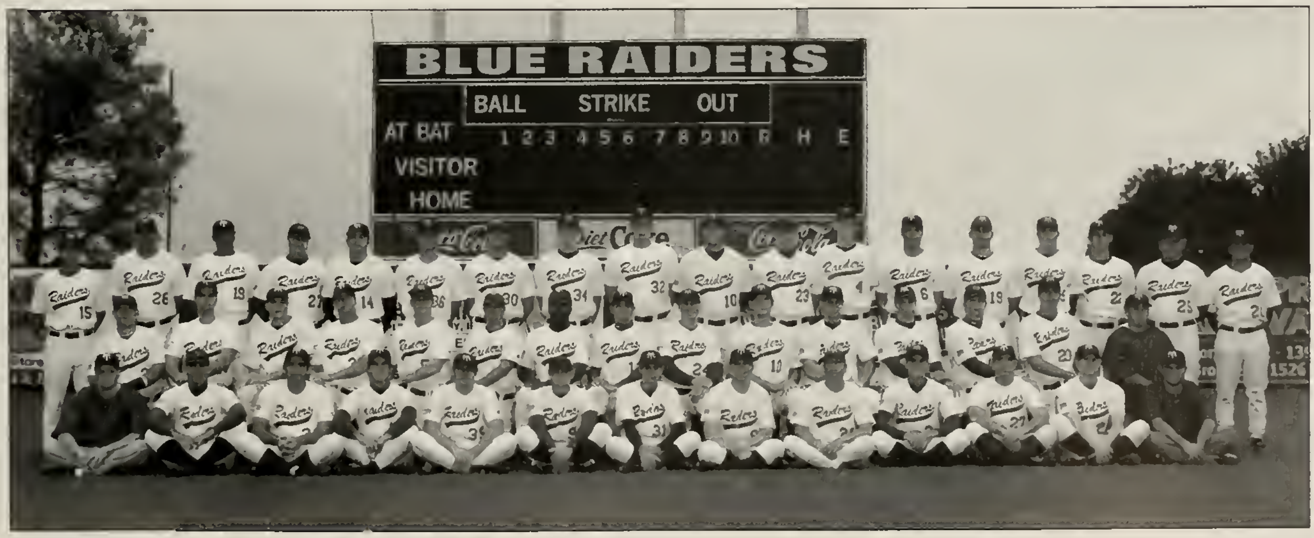
2002

roster



Marshall Nisbett
Justin Sims
Nathan Jaggers
Chad Cooper
Jason Howarth
Chuck Akers
Seth Yarbrough
Brett Carroll
Josh Archer
Kyle Sparkman
Troy Harp
Joe Capone
Doug Kunicki
Chase Swing
Steven Kines
Mark Corrado
John Williams
Jason Kuhn
Kevin Suba
Chris Mobley
Danny Borne
Travis Horshel
Derek Phillips
Kris Smith
Adam Larson
Jeremy Armstrong
Jeff Marcus
Chris Leguenec
Chris Kurtz
Tim Crunk


BLUE RAIDERS
BALL
STRIKE
OUT
AT BAT
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 R H E
VISITOR
HOME

Left: Keith Conner, with Bryant Mitchell close on his heels, outruns his Texas Pan-American oponent down the court.
photo by Photo Services

Bottom: Eric Parham looks for the open lane to the basket in the much hyped match against Tennessee.
photo by Amy Jones

Opposite Page: Irio Tenngren goes up for the short jumper while fighting off a defender.
photo by Photo Services

MEN'S Basketball

2002 roster

Keith Connor
William Pippen
Steven Jackson
Wes Durrant
Eric Parham
Marcus Robinson
Jon Douglas
Derek Glasper
Tommy Gunn
Bryant Mitchell
John Humphrey
Napoleon Rhodes
Stephen Russell
Kyle Young
Demario Watson
Charles Anderson
Darrio Scott

by Colleen Cox

The Blue Raider basketball team improved its season record by nine games over last season. MT got its first SBC tournament win, beating South Alabama 48-47 in the first round but dropped out in the second round after losing to New Mexico State 63-48. MT ended the season with a 14-15 overall record, finishing 6-8 in conference play.

The season was one of streaks as the Blue Raiders had a couple five-game winning streaks. They closed the regular season, however, with a loss to Western Kentucky.

Despite the improvement, head coach Randy Wiel resigned shortly after the Sun Belt Conference tournament.

"There are some who feel a change is needed, and the program needs to go in another direction," Wiel said after resigning. "I just hope they give the next coach time to turn it around."

Former Louisiana State University coach Kermit Davis, Jr., was hired as Wiel's replacement in April. Davis hopes to return the team back to the NCAA Tournament, somewhere it hasn't been since 1989, and to put fans in the seats.

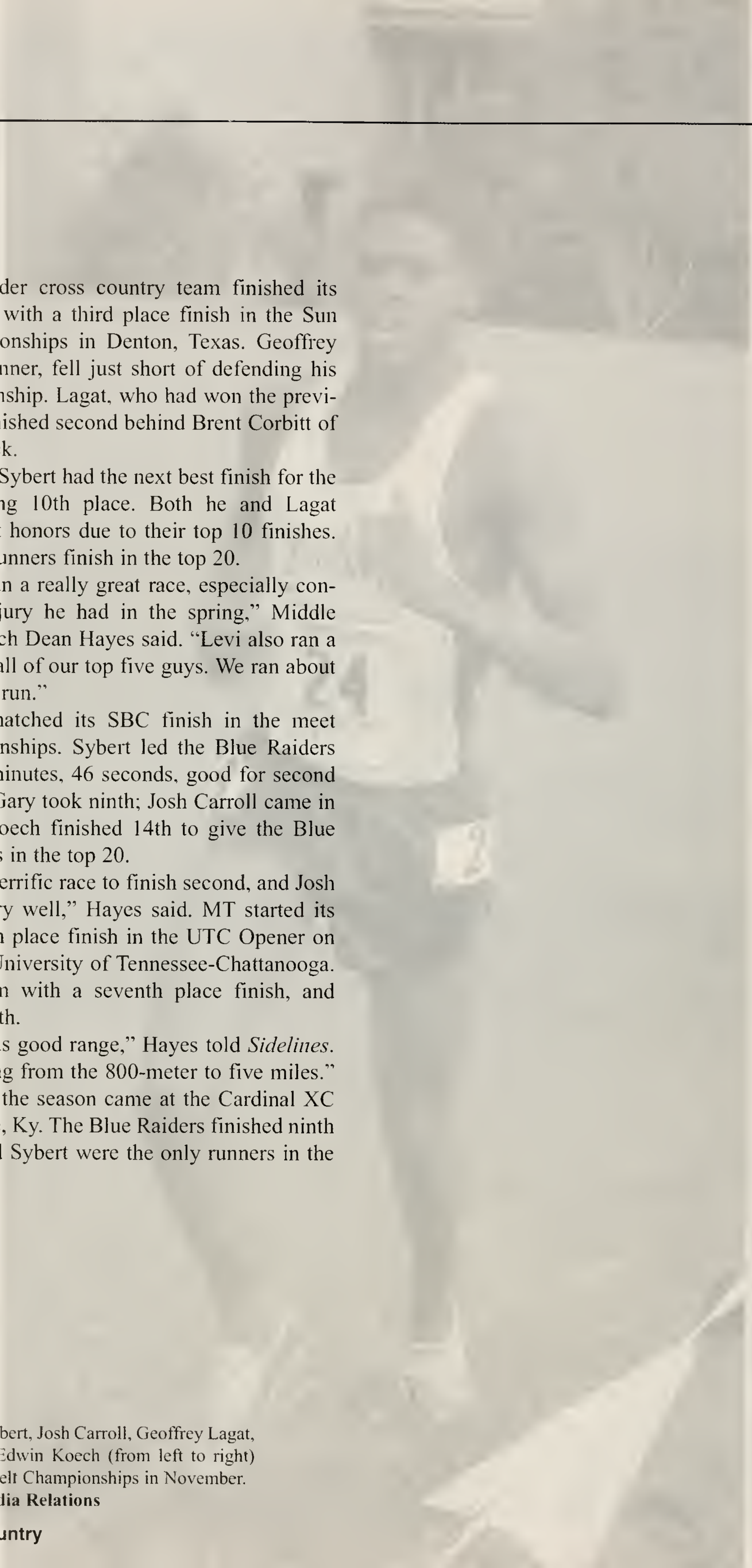
"Middle Tennessee State is a gold mine," Davis says. "We'll bring excitement back to basketball here because it's just waiting to happen."

The Blue Raiders lost just two seniors from last season's team, All-Sun Belt player Lee Nosse and D'Marius Wilkes. Nosse was a leader and a serious scoring threat for MT.

The Blue Raiders will return sophomore Tommy Gunn along with William Pippen, John Humphry and point guard Eric Parham. With that kind of nucleus, MT has high hopes for 2002.

"We've got a lot of work ahead of us—no question about that—but we've got an excellent opportunity to get competitive next year," Davis says.

MIDDLE
22
TENNESSEE
McKENZIE
5



by Colleen Cox

The Blue Raider cross country team finished its 2002 season with a third place finish in the Sun Belt Championships in Denton, Texas. Geoffrey Lagat, MT's top runner, fell just short of defending his individual championship. Lagat, who had won the previous two seasons, finished second behind Brent Corbitt of Arkansas-Little Rock.

Senior Levi Sybert had the next best finish for the Blue Raiders, taking 10th place. Both he and Lagat earned All-Sun Belt honors due to their top 10 finishes. MT had two other runners finish in the top 20.

"Geoffrey ran a really great race, especially considering the leg injury he had in the spring," Middle Tennessee head coach Dean Hayes said. "Levi also ran a terrific race, as did all of our top five guys. We ran about as well as we could run."

The team matched its SBC finish in the meet before the championships. Sybert led the Blue Raiders with a time of 15 minutes, 46 seconds, good for second place. Anthony McGary took ninth; Josh Carroll came in 13th, and Edwin Koech finished 14th to give the Blue Raiders four runners in the top 20.

"Levi ran a terrific race to finish second, and Josh Carroll also ran very well," Hayes said. MT started its season with a fourth place finish in the UTC Opener on the campus of the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. Sybert led the team with a seventh place finish, and McGary came in 10th.

"Anthony has good range," Hayes told *Sidelines*. "He can run anything from the 800-meter to five miles." The worst finish of the season came at the Cardinal XC Classic in Louisville, Ky. The Blue Raiders finished ninth overall as Lagat and Sybert were the only runners in the top 20.

Opposite page: Levi Sybert, Josh Carroll, Geoffrey Lagat, Anthony McGary and Edwin Koech (from left to right) begin a race at the Sunbelt Championships in November.
photo provided by Media Relations

Men's Cross Country

Middle Tennessee
27
Middle Tennessee
23
Middle
24
22

roster

Josh Carroll
Carlo Gonzalez
Edwin Koech
Geoffrey Lagat
Anthony McGary
Sean Rabe
Steve Sastrom
Levi Sybert

Football

by Colleen Cox

The Blue Raider football team found a tough schedule and injuries too much to overcome as the Blue Raiders suffered through a 4-8 season.

MT started the season nearly beating Alabama. After digging themselves into a three-touchdown hole early in the game, the Blue Raiders made a valiant comeback but fell short in the end.

"Alabama is one of the top football programs in the country, and our kids showed a lot of character in coming back," head coach Andy McCollum said. "All we asked of them was to give us a chance to win in the fourth quarter, which they did."

The schedule didn't get any easier as MT faced Tennessee the next week. The defense stepped up against UT, but the offense made too many mistakes.

"I will say that our defense grew up today," McCollum said after the UT game. "I did see some defensive football players grow up when they had their backs against the wall, got some turnovers, gave us a chance to stay in this game."

The Blue Raiders dropped their third straight game to a Southeastern Conference opponent, losing to Kentucky. After three straight losses to SEC teams, MT came home and lost to I-AA Southeast Missouri. That loss was followed by a loss to Arkansas State in MTSU's first Sun Belt contest of the season.

"We simply did not come out focused and ready to play," quarterback Andrico Hines said following the South-east Missouri game. "We did not take them seriously, and we paid for it. You have to play your top game all the time, no matter who you are playing, and tonight we didn't come with our best effort."

The Blue Raiders finally picked up their first win of the season against Vanderbilt. The Blue Raiders followed that up with a Sun Belt win against Louisiana-Lafayette. After dropping two more Sun Belt games, MT came home and picked up a victory against Louisiana-Monroe. North Texas came to Murfreesboro the next week and took the 30-20 victory.

MT closed out its season with a win over Utah State. Dwone Hicks eclipsed the 1,000-yard mark for the third straight year, rolling up 169 yards.

"I am very proud of these kids and this game," McCollum said. "Just like I told the seniors, we may not be champions, but we've got a bunch of winners."

roster

Kerry Wright
Michael Woods
Tony Sutton
Dwone Hicks
Muhammad Rashada
Wardell Alsup
Andre Green
Hashem Joyner
Andrico Hines
Chris Johnson
Kareem Bland
Will Martin
Quan Domineck
Blake Rolan
Josh Harris
Clint Marks
Sean Waller
Aaron Pitts
Robert Billings
Chris Hough
Brian Kelly
Alvin Fite
ReShard Lee
Kelvin German
Neal Wandell
Tyrone Calico
Don Calloway
Kabote Sikyala
Alex Weaver
Rondell Newson
Kevin Davis
Jonathan Bonner
Kevin Copeland
Niko Whiteside
Shawn Allen
John Crawford
DeLorean Jordan
Michael Watkins
Nick McAfee
John Madrick
Chris Gatlin
Dennis Burke
Brandon Lynch
Avery Hatten
Fletcher Williams
Charlie Myles
Colby Smith
Sheldon Durham
Brent Moore
Paul Wheeler
Paul Cantrell
Ben Howze
Louis Kemp
Joey Mantalbano
Randy Arnold
Josh Willoughby
Kenny Edwards
Glen Elarbee
Demitri Carter
Chris Sapp
Brandon Westbrook
Germayle Franklin
Jeremy Meade
Julius Gant
Brett Trott
Seth Grabo
Jonathan Barry
David Coy
Bill Brasch
Jonathan Proby
Brandon Parker
Shavaskey Brown
Kevin Pascoe
Marcus Gates
David Youell
Reggie Polk
Lucas Frost
Pierre Ingram
Reggie Jones
Chris Henry
Troy Bergeron
Ryan Edmistoon
Sam Williams
Doug Waller
Samuel Smith
Preston Portley
Jeff Littlejohn
Thomas Johnson
Devarick Scandrett
Jonathan Callahan
Curtis Daniely
Jerry Vanderpool
Demetrios Walker
Dominic Jones
Eugene Gross
Tyrone Hicks
J.P. Shelly

Men's Golf

by Colleen Cox

The Blue Raider golf team finished its season with a ninth place finish in the Sun Belt Championships. Senior J.R. Wade shot 224 for the tournament to finish 18th. His finish was the best for the Raiders and earned him all-conference accolades.

"We played reasonably well on the front nine and then didn't finish again today," head coach Johnny Moore said after the final round of the championships. "We weren't tough enough mentally to grind it out. The course was strange to us, but it was strange to everyone. We made some bad judgments in club selection the three days and then compounded those mistakes by trying to make it up. J.R. did well. He was three-over on the back and got it back to even."

MT began its season with a 10th place finish at the Gulf Coast Classic. The Blue Raiders led the tournament after the first round, but rounds of 311 and 306 dropped them to 10th place out of 15 teams.

"With the good start we got off to, I am a little disappointed with where we finished," Moore said. "We did not play with any consistency. We would get a birdie on one hole then follow it up with a double or triple bogey."

Charlie Gibson led the Blue Raiders with a three-day total of 221.

"I was very proud of the way Charlie played," Moore said. "He made smart decisions and managed the course the right way. He has a bright future in our program."

The Blue Raiders followed up their 10th place finish placing 12th at the Ron Smith Invitational. MT shot a final round that moved them up four positions. Wade shot a 145 to finish 13th.

The worst finish of the season came at the 2002 Chenal Trojan Cup Championship. The Blue Raiders shot 919 to finish 14th. John Beddies led the team with a 24th place finish, shooting 224. "We really struggled in this tournament with inconsistent play," Moore said. "The second round just stopped all our momentum and hopes of a top five finish."

The Blue Raiders rebounded from the bad finish to take ninth place at the Billy Hitchcock Intercollegiate tournament. MT shot a three round 895. Charlie Gibson put together rounds of 72, 73 and 73 to finish 10th.

2002 Roster

John Beddles
Blake Bivens
Taylor Bowers
Willie Daniel
Charlie Gibson
Carter Henderson
Andy Vaughn
J.R. Wade
Patrick Williams

Opposite page: Carter Henderson is ranked 65th in the country for eagles per round. He played in four tournaments and averaged 77.1 strokes per game. **photo provided by Photo Services**

MEN'S Tennis

by Colleen Cox

The Blue Raider tennis team had a successful 2002 season, making it to the second round of the NCAA Team Championships for the second time in school history. Daniel Klemetz, the No. 14 player in the country, made it to the first round of the NCAA Individual Championships, but lost to Alex Vlaski to end his season with a 29-9 record.

"Dan started off really well, but Vlaski made some adjustments and Dan just couldn't hold on to get the win," head coach Dale Short said of Klemetz final match. "Dan had a terrific year, and you hate to see it end this way. But sometimes the breaks just don't go your way, and they didn't for Dan today."

In the team competition, the Blue Raiders pulled off a first round upset, beating No. 18 Alabama 4-3. However, MT couldn't get past No. 7 Ole Miss in the second round, falling 4-1.

"It was an unbelievable match and a terrific effort from our guys to battle and not give up after going down," Short said of the Alabama match. "We started well with the doubles point, but Alabama really jumped on us in the singles and had us down early. Kirk did a great job in coming back to win in three sets, and Daniel won another hard-fought match that got us the victory."

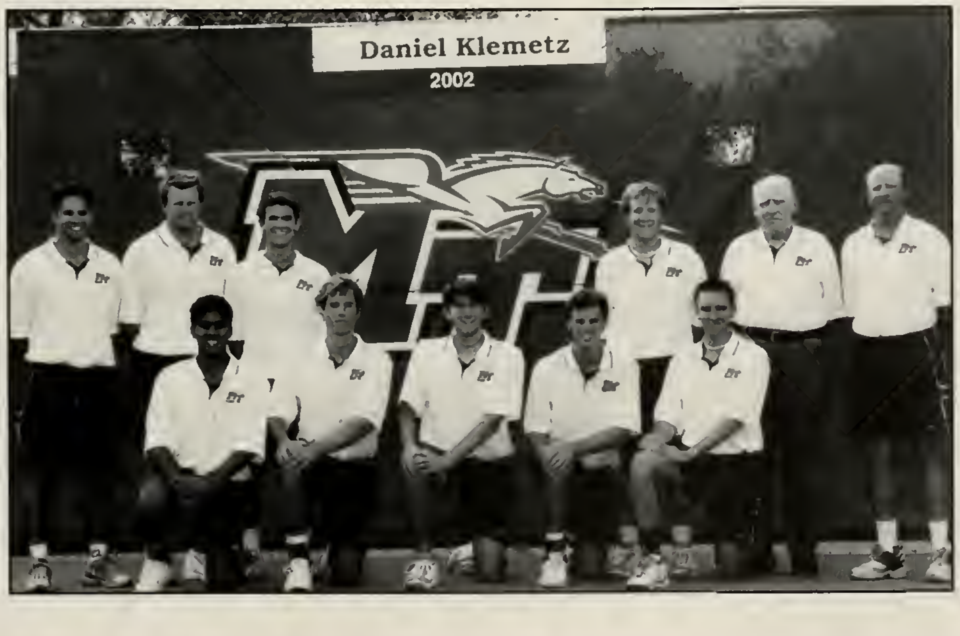
Klemetz received the national *Tennis Magazine*/Arthur Ashe, Jr., Sportsmanship and Leadership Award at the NCAA Championships. The award is given to someone who shows great athletic play along with leadership and sportsmanship. Klemetz also received All-American honors.

"This is a tremendous honor for Daniel and Middle Tennessee," Short said. "Dan represents over 3,000 college tennis players, and we are very proud of him for winning this award and representing himself, his team and the school with great honor and pride."

MT advanced to the NCAA Championships after finishing second in the Sun Belt Championships. The Blue Raiders started the SBC Championships by beating Denver 4-0. In the semifinals, MT defeated Louisiana-Lafayette 4-2. The top two teams in the Sun Belt, MT and South Alabama, faced off in the championships. South Alabama came away with the 4-0 victory to win the championship.

Daniel Klemetz races across the court to return a serve from the opponent. **photo by Amy Jones**

Robert Gustafsson stretches to return a volley while being backed up by doubles partner Oliver Foreman. **photo by Amy Jones**



2002 Roster

Brandon Allen
Kirk Jackson
Daniel Klemetz
Rishan Kuruppu
Greg Pollack
Trevor Short
Michael Staniak
Oliver Foreman
Robert Gustafsson

MEN'S TRACK

by Colleen Co

Above: Chris Koger clears the high jump at an indoor meet in the Murphy Center.
photo provided by Photo Services

Right: Travis Clevenger lines up for the 400 meter.
photo by Amy Jones

Far Right: Kareem Bland caught mid-flight in the triple-jump.
photo provided by Photo Services

The Blue Raider track team had high expectations for 2002 and came through with a very successful season. The indoor season started on a winning note in early December with the Middle Tennessee Christmas Invitational. Shortly after the Christmas break, sophomore Mardy Scales tied a school record in the 55-meters with a time of 6.20 seconds.

After winning the Sun Belt Indoor Championships last season, MT was picked to repeat in 2002. Despite trailing Western Kentucky University and Arkansas State University after the first day of competition, the Blue Raiders took first place at the championships.

"One of the hardest things in sports to do is repeat as champions, which says a lot about Middle Tennessee," head coach Dean Hayes said. "Both our teams have worked so hard and dedicated themselves to winning this championship. I am proud of their effort and the way they represented our university [at the tournament]."

Both Scales and Godfrey Herring represented MT at the NCAA Indoor Championships. Though they both earned All-American honors, they finished near the bottom of their final heats.

Roste

Omar Ali
Josh Carroll
Travis Clevenger
Jasper Demps
Wesley Dupar-Scott
Marcus Fritz
Godfrey Herring
Greg Jones
Rob Jordan
Chris Koger
John Kosgei
Geoffrey Lagat
Matthew McFarland
Clarence McFerren
Anthony McGary
Victor Okorie
Brad Orr
Steve Safstrom
Mardy Scales
Lindsay Sims
DJ Spann
Levi Sybert
Fred Williams

"Both our teams have worked so hard and dedicated themselves to winning this championship. I am proud of their effort and the way they represented our university [at the tournament]."

-Coach Dean Hayes

The outdoor season was highlighted by Chris Koger, Herring and the men's 4-by-400 team all qualifying for the NCAA Championships. The men's 4-by-400 meter relay team set a school record at a meet held at Georgia Tech University, running a time of 3 minutes, 6.48 seconds.

The relay team posted a time of 3 minutes, 12 seconds at the Vanderbilt invitational but still hoped to improve its time.

"It felt good because we could relax a little," relay member Fred Williams told *Sidelines*. "But at 3 minutes and 12 seconds, there is still room for improvement."

Herring finished sixth in the 400 meters at the championships, running a time of 45.73 seconds to earn All-American honors. The 4-by-400 team of DJ Spann, Fred Williams, Wesley Dupar-Scott and Herring finished ninth. Koger tied with two other competitors for 13th.

Once again, the Blue Raiders had high expectations at the Sun Belt Outdoor Championships. This time, key injuries kept them from winning as MT finished fourth. Herring won the Men's Outstanding Performer award for his performance in the 200 and 400 meters.

"These kids really did everything they could do," Hayes said. "They gave everything they had. We've had an awful lot of injuries and accidents this season, and we were missing some key personnel that could have helped us.

"But the kids we had here did a terrific job. Godfrey just continues to be an unbelievable sprinter, no matter what the event."

Anthony McGary shows the pain of the mile run.
photo provided by Photo Services

A NEW FACE ON THE COURT

Kermit Davis

NEW MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH

by Natalie Hall

TEA
TOGET
RAIDERS
RAIDE
RAID

After 21 years of experience as a coach and, before that, a player, MTSU Head Basketball Coach Kermit Davis seems like the perfect guy to coach the Blue Raider men's basketball team.

Since moving to Tennessee in April 2002 to take on his new coaching duties, Davis and his family have adjusted well to their new location. "I'm a southern guy, and we love it here," says Davis. Initially, he was worried about the move, but the whole family has adjusted well, he says.

As for MTSU men's basketball, Davis says the 2002-2003 season is definitely something to look forward to with nine returning players and a great new staff to bring excitement to the court.

Davis' appointment here at MTSU marked his fourth head-coaching job for Division 1 schools and his seventh overall head-coaching job at the collegiate level. From his several years of experience at the college level, Davis remembers that "at 24, I was the youngest head coach in the country. At 28, I was the youngest head coach at the Division I level."

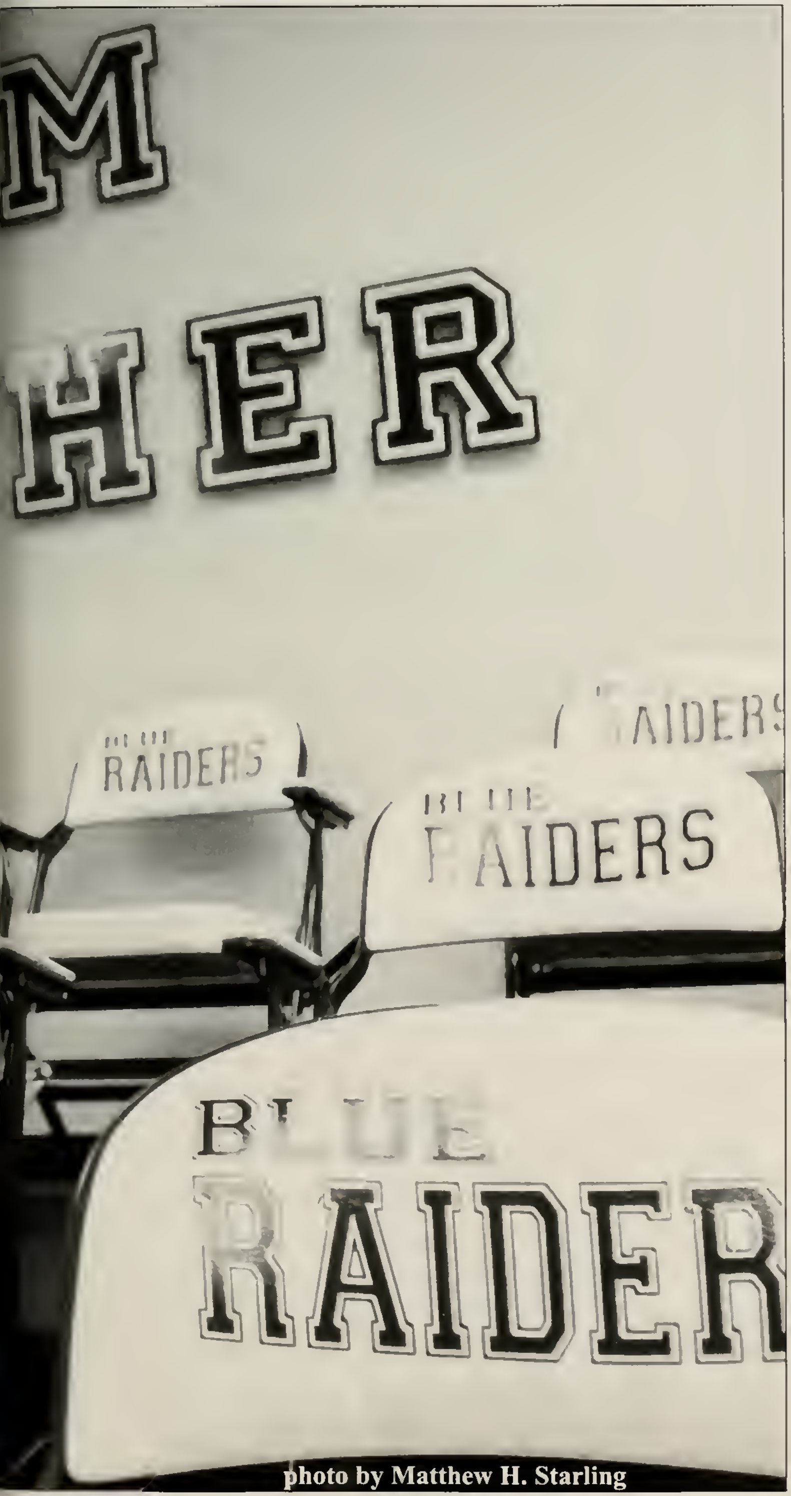


photo by Matthew H. Starling

His past coaching experiences have taken him across the country to places such as Idaho, Utah State University and Louisianan State University.

Coaching, it seems, is something that Davis has long known he wanted to do. After playing for a junior college in Arkansas and for a few years at Mississippi State, Davis says he made up his mind that coaching was what he wanted to do full time. MTSU represents his latest challenge and opportunity to do just that.

Thus far, the Blue Raider hoopsters seem to have adjusted well to their new coach, reports Davis, who adds that he's tried to instill a better work ethic and more discipline in the players. However, he adds that the team as a whole has a long way to go.

"They [the players] have responded well academically, and the administration has made a commitment to get basketball going," he notes, regarding the program's overall progress.

Because the basketball program at MTSU has steadily declined since the 1980s, Davis faces quite a challenge in taking on head-coaching duties. Today, both Davis and the team hope to regain the fan base that they once had in Murfreesboro.

Just as the university's football program has begun to pick up, Davis says he is optimistic that the basketball program will follow suit. "We need to get a base for our program. It takes a lot of hard work, toughness and playing with a lot of energy," he observes.

Davis also wants to get the team involved with the community and get the community to know the players. "We've got to get a connection with the students," insists Davis, who adds that if the students come to the games, everything else will follow.

"One advantage that we have over football is that we have weekday games," he says. "If students get in the habit of coming to games during the week, then they will most likely stay for weekend games."

Thanks to Davis' positive outlook for the Blue Raiders, both the team and their new leader are likely to find success. Thus, with a head coach who believes in them, in their energy and in their potential to win, MTSU's men's basketball team already has the big home-court advantage.

However, despite his extraordinary attitude, Davis admits, he is like all other head basketball coaches in one regard. "I am like all the other coaches," he says, "in that I want to go to the NCAA tournament."

profile

TRACK

Stephany Reid

by Andre Woods

Stephany Reid is not your ordinary MTSU athlete. This 6'2" Canadian track star is a fierce competitor in the long and triple jumps, two track events that Stephany not only participates in, but conquers as well. With her amazing jumping skills and charismatic personality, Stephany often leaves her athletic peers in shocked disbelief of her incredible ability when out on the track field.

Stephany, who hails from New Brunswick, Canada, started running track at the tender age of seven. She won her first national award by the age of 14. Winning a silver medal in the Canusa games, Stephany was the youngest winner in her league, beating athletes who were four or five years older than her. It was not long before this track prodigy started breaking records.

Stephany became the Provincial record-holder for the 100, 200-meter race and the Junior National record holder in the triple jump in her homeland of Canada. She did all this while still in high school. Considering that she was also named Female Athlete of the Year ... twice, it is no wonder the college scouts came knocking.

Although MTSU was a definite possibilit after high school, it was not Stephany's first choice. Stephany packed up her belongings and headed to Nebraska State University t continue her track career. Expecting the best from her first yea of college, she went in with her award-winning attitude, bu came out with the most disappointing year she had had sinc starting her beloved sport. It was not long before Stephan migrated to Murfreesboro and was calling MTSU her home.

"MT has a really fun atmosphere," says Stephany expressing her love for MTSU. She also acknowledges Coac Hayes, explaining that after a bad year at NSU, he restored al of her confidence.

Under the guidance of Coach Hayes, Stephany ha placed third in the triple jump at the Sunbelt Conferenc national competition, winning a bronze medal. She has als gone back home to compete in the Canada Games where sh has captured medals for both triple jump and long jump.

Never one to turn down an opportunity, this senior — a Biology major with a French minor — is finishing up he degree as an exchange student in France. After she receives he degree, Stephany is not exactly sure what will be next. He only definate plans are to keep competing. "I love track," Stephany says, "and I'm going to keep doing it even though I'm through at the university level."

profile

Basketball

MIDDLE
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TENNESSEE

photo by Amy Jones

by Linda G. Selby

Tommy Gunn, a 6'2" guard for the Blue Raiders basketball team, is from Syracuse, N.Y., where he began playing basketball as a freshman in high school and realized that he had a love for the game by the time he was a sophomore.

Gunn is currently a junior at MTSU. He came to the southern state of Tennessee after having been wooed by Coach Davis and his staff and the great environment. The tall, competitive athlete believes that MTSU offers him the ability to concentrate on both athletics and academics, giving him the freedom to be successful in both areas.

A remarkable athlete, Gunn scored 20 or more points in a single game six different times by February in the 2003 season. He also is very close to reaching the mark of 1,000 career points. At the Denver game, he led the team at the line with an 11 for 11 performance.

The Denver game was the Blue Raider's seventh win in the Sun Belt, giving them the most in the league since joining three seasons ago. The Denver game also gave Gunn new career highs in both makes and attempts, allowing the Blue Raiders to win the opening tip in three straight games.

Gunn gives credit for his success with the Blue Raiders to Davis and his staff and to the good chemistry and friendship of his team.

"This year, the nucleus of the team has really picked up. Of course, the game is more fun when we have a record of 500 plus," Gunn said with a chuckle.

Gunn, while enjoying his basketball career at MTSU, is also majoring in concrete industry management. Even though his goal is to continue in basketball, he wants to have his degree. He is looking forward to his senior year at MTSU and to continuing his successes in basketball.

TOMMY GUNN

profile Football

Demetrios Walker

by Jessy Yancey

Demetrios Walker hasn't had an easy life. Since he was born in the lower-income section of Kansas City, Mo., he has been shot at, has been the victim of armed robberies and has been hit by a car three separate times. But somehow, he survived all of this to become a player for MTSU's football team.

It's incredible that anyone who was hit by a car three times could survive, let alone play college football. The first accident occurred when Demetrios was young, and he fractured his skull. "I still get headaches," he admits. During the second accident, he was bruised up, but the third was by far the worst.

"I broke my leg in four places," recalls Demetrios, who was thirteen at the time. Doctors weren't sure if he would ever be able to walk again. "I had to relearn how to walk."

High school was a turning point for Demetrios. "I had to learn the hard way," he says, referring to his life-altering experiences of being held at gunpoint, dealing with deaths of close friends and having two of his cousins go to jail. "I realized I was focused on the wrong things."

So Demetrios pulled up his grades and started playing football. His team went to all-state that year. "I knew that if there was anything I could make it in, it was football. As a kid, I was very physical," he remembers. "I always liked to hit stuff, so I played a lot of football as a kid."

Demetrios attended Ft. Scott, a junior college in Kansas, in order to bring up his grades, which he did, earning a 3.5 GPA. He then looked into MTSU.

"I liked the visit, the environment and the cultures," explains Demetrios. He partially decided on MTSU because he wanted to major in the recording industry. He loves music, and he composes hip-hop and R&B songs. "Michael Jackson and Stevie Wonder are inspirations," he says. Demetrios has since changed his mind about his major; he wants to become a teacher.

Demetrios started five games this year as the Blue Raiders' defensive end. "I just do whatever to help us win — and that's what we need to do."

During his first year at MTSU, the team won their conference, but he says this past season didn't go as well as he would have liked. "It was a little disappointing. We need to do a lot of correction," he says. "But we're gelling, coming together, and we're going to get better." Right now, Demetrios says he's just grateful to be playing football for MTSU.

"I've been through a lot of things that make you appreciate more and that make you want to be a better person," says Demetrios. "I've had God on my side to help me make it to where I am today."

Softball

Jennifer Martinez

story by Jessy Yancey
photo by Amy Jones

profile

I'm going to miss playing the game," says Jennifer Martinez, who just completed her last year as a pitcher for the softball team.

Martinez has been playing softball since she was five years old. "My older sister played," she remembers, "and I wanted to be just like her."

Former MTSU softball coach Karen Green recruited Jennifer after seeing her play in Colorado in 1998. At first, Jennifer thought that Tennessee was too far away from her home in northern California, but then she decided to try it out. "I wanted to venture out on my own and see how far I could go."

"The worst thing about Tennessee is the cold weather," says Jennifer. "But everyone here is so polite, especially compared to California." She adds that a lot of the other girls on the team were from California, which helped her feel more at home.

The softball team gets along well, according to Jennifer. "It's a team thing to go out and do things together," she explains. "It helps everyone get to know each other and become better friends."

In her four years here, Jennifer has shattered every school career pitching record and received dozens of awards and forms of recognition. She started out by winning the Freshman Player of the Year award and the Pitcher of the Year award, becoming the first freshman in the OVC to do so. She went on to win the Pitcher of the Year award her sophomore year as well. The softball team won the OVC tournament that same year, which Jennifer says is one of her most unforgettable softball moments.

Jennifer finished her career with boasting rights of 200 strikeouts in three out of the four years she's played at MTSU. She is expected to graduate in May 2004 with a degree in health education and lifetime wellness. She wants to teach high school health or P.E. and, eventually, to coach softball.

"I won't miss the grueling practice and the morning workouts," she says, "but I'll really miss the game."

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Cheerleaders perform a routine at a home basketball game. **photo by Amy Jones**

Cheerleading

by Jessy Yancey

Raiders on three ... one, two, three, Raiders!" chant the MTSU cheerleaders at every football and basketball game. Smiling at the crowd in their blue and white uniforms, the cheerleaders make the audience shout with chants, lead them with cheers and awe them with stunts. The cheerleaders are the spirit of the game, a close-knit family of their own.

The thirty MTSU cheerleaders make up three squads. The blue squad cheers at all football games while the white squad cheers only at the home football games. The basketball games are divided up between the two squads. The third squad is a mixture of cheerleaders from both groups; they concentrate on the national competitions.

It all begins with tryouts in the spring followed by camp during the summer. "Tryouts were nerve-racking," says nursing major Danielle Damico, who recently moved up to the blue squad and the nationals team. "I was shaking the entire time, but I made it."

The cheerleaders stay busy, practicing at least three times a week, working on cheers and learning stunts. "We do a variety of stunts," says coordinator Jonathan Pursley, "including toss extensions, toss heel stretches and full-up liberties."

Not to mention appearances, parades and pep rallies, the cheerleaders also perform community services, such as walk-a-thons at elementary schools and reading books to local children. They also do fundraisers such as bake sales, date auctions and selling pictures with the cheerleaders and the MTSU mascot, Lightning, who is performed by Kyle Edwards and Nathan Woerner.

Traveling to different places is one of the interesting things about being an MTSU cheerleader. "When MTSU played New Mexico State," recalls Pursley, "we went across the border to Mexico for the day."

"You can't pinpoint just one thing," he explains, when asked what the best thing about cheerleading is. "It all encompasses each other."

"They are each other's sister or brother away from home, and they are my children," reveals Pursley. "It's a family atmosphere."

Danielle Damico agrees. "We're all really close, and we nitpick at each other like brothers and sisters." She adds that they have nicknames for each other and fight like siblings. "But we've learned that we can work together when we really try. We've learned that we can do anything with a good coach, patience and practice."

2002 Roster

Blue Squad:

Jill Aaron
Tara Garrison
Andrea Haskell
Rachel Maynard
Bethni Bratten
Jamie George
Tina Hendrix
Tami Poole

Daryl Farler
Jeremiah Lawson
Lerone Major
Itai Tirado
Landon Larson
Mick Loveday
Gil Matias
Mario Wong

White Squad:

Inge Dietz
Kirsten Holbrook
Diana Paschal
Danielle Domico
Kimberly Mann

Adam Elkins
Joshua Keith Seals
John Woerner
Shane Tarter

"It was so hot and sunny during the day," says trumpet player Robert Nunez, referring to MTSU's Band of Blue band camp.

The week before school starts, all members of the Band of Blue, including the majorettes, dance team and flag corps, are required to attend camp. "The goal is to start learning shows and music and to fully introduce the freshman to our way of doing things," says Craig Cornish, director of the Band of Blue.

During camp, the band practices for hours in the hot August sun—from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m.—with only two breaks. "It was really long and really hot," admits Lauren Hallsell, who plays the piccolo. "I got sunburnt."

Nunez says that, despite the heat, camp was fun. "When we were through practicing, we would all go out and have fun."

After band camp is over, the members still have to practice three days a week for an hour and forty-five minutes each day. "Practice can be really long and drawn-out," says Kevin Ravan, who plays the cymbals.

But as the old saying goes, practice makes perfect. The Band of Blue had about 15-20 performances this year, including performances at all home football games, at a Titans game, at the 41st Annual Contest of Champions and in front of 108,000 people when MTSU played the University of Tennessee. The band also performed at the ACA Convocation, the President's Picnic, pep rallies, exhibitions and for charity.

"The band receives standing ovations for their performances," says Cornish, who has been involved in marching bands for twenty-eight years. Although this is Cornish's first year as the director of the Band of Blue, the season has gone well. "We've had some change," he says, "but, so far, it's going great."

"The performance aspect is great," agrees Ravan, "and it's really cool to perform for a huge audience."

During the official season, Nunez complained about the cold weather. "But it's still fun," he added. "It's really amazing playing in front of so many people."

The Band of Blue marches up Tennessee Blvd. in the Homecoming parade. **photo by Matthew H. Starling**

Band of Blue

by Jessy Yancey

Women's Basketball

by Colleen Cox

Joanne Aluka soars past an Ole' Miss defender.
photo by Amy Jones

The Lady Raider basketball team finished their season with a 16-13 overall record and a 7-7 Sun Belt Conference record, ending the season in the second round of the SBC Tournament.

After winning their first conference game against the University of New Orleans 77-54, MT dropped their final two conference games of the regular season to enter the tournament as the No. 3 seed in the eastern division.

Going into the final game of the regular season, the Lady Raiders needed a win to take the No. 2 seed and get a first round bye.

"We still have to take care of business and try to finish second and get that bye," said Stephany Smith, women's basketball head coach. "If we can do that, then we won't play [in the tournament] until Sunday, which would be a big lift for our basketball team."

Although this didn't happen, the Lady Raiders took a convincing 90-59 win over the University of Lousiana-Lafayette in the first round of the tournament. The second round was a different story as MT lost 78-63 to Denver.

Sun Belt All-Tournament team member Jamie Thomatis finished her senior season averaging 18.2 points per game and 6.1 rebounds per game. She also had a .844 free-throw shooting percentage.

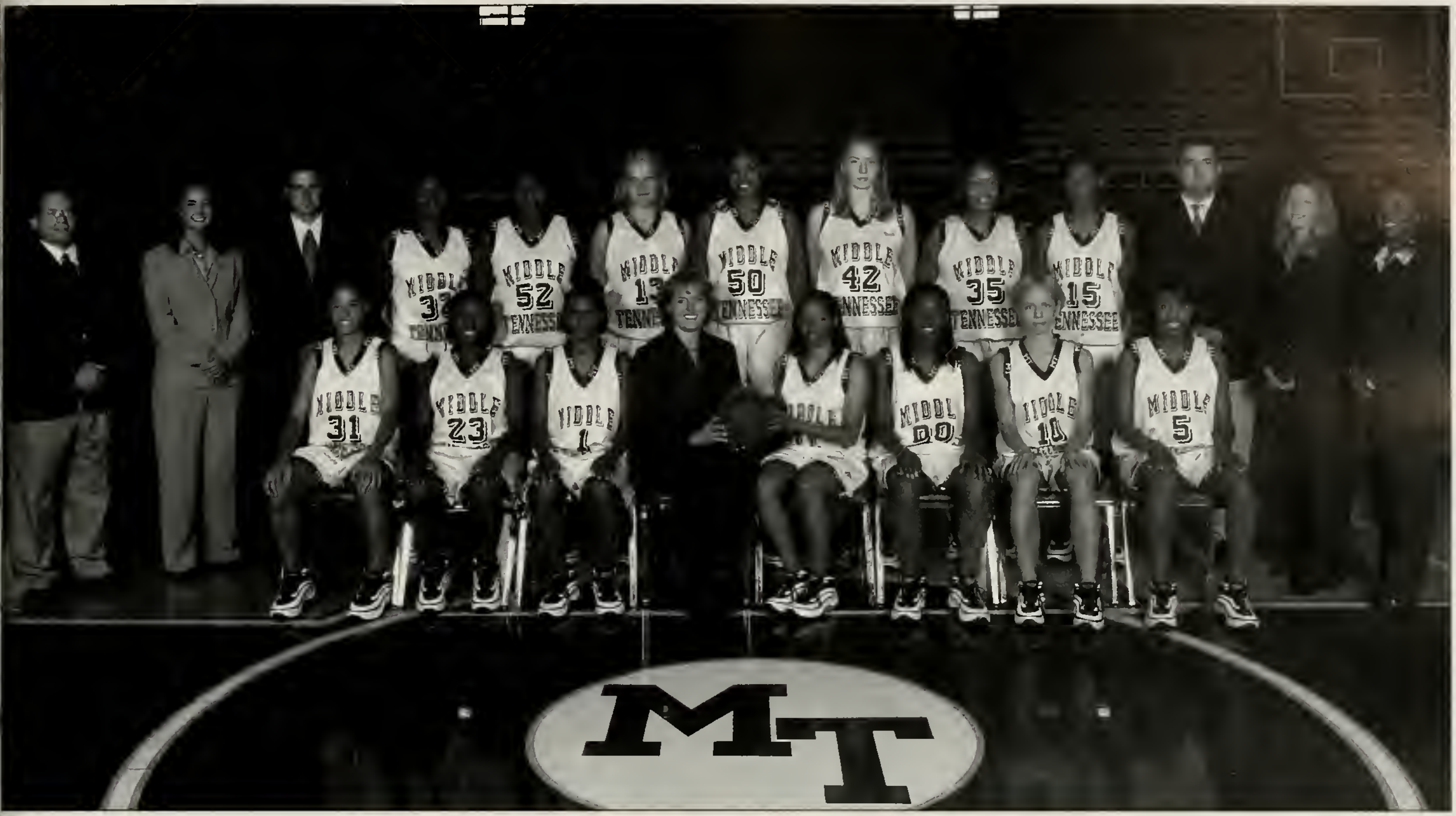
MT will have two key players from this season's squad back next season. Freshman Patrice Holmes averaged 12.6 points and 6.1 rebounds per game, putting her second on the team. Sophomore Jennifer Justice averaged 8.9 points per game, shooting .487 percent from the field.

Also returning are junior guard Paula Penttila and junior forward Mia Parviainen. These two are expected to be leaders for the team next season.

"We have a great group of players who want to prove something," Smith said. "Mia and Paula have really stepped into the leadership role, and I am proud of the examples they are setting for the rest of the team."

roster 2002

Ciara Gray
Keisha McClinic
Paula Penttila
Jennifer Justice
Mia Parviainen
Melissa Weiland
Tia Stovall
Jessica McClure
Tiffany Fisher
Patrice Holmes
Cartia Bailey
Eboni Kirby
Jessica Schlueter
Joanne Aluka
Jamie Thomatis



Sophomore Patrice Holmes attempts to dribble past the Arkansas State defense. **photo provided by Photo Services**

Senior Paula Penttila focuses on the basket as she battles a South Alabama player. **photo provided by Photo Services**

Middle
Tennessee
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by Colleen Cox

The Lady Raider cross country team finished the 2002 season the same way it did in 2001, with a last place finish at the Sun Belt Championships. MT competed with a team full of freshmen and knew there would be obstacles heading into the season.

"We don't have any distance runners, and it cost us," Hayes told *Sidelines* before the season.

Trisha DeValcourt led the Lady Raider squad at the SBC championships with a 49th place finish. She was the only runner to finish in the top 50.

"The women ran hard, and Trisha ran pretty good after being hurt this fall," Hayes said after the championships. "It was a sloppy, wet and windy day, which made it tough for everyone and made the times slow."

The start of the season wasn't much better for the Lady Raiders as they finished last in their first meet of the year. DeValcourt ran a time of 13 minutes, 44 seconds to finish 25th at the race.

"The women's squad is all new this year, so we will run a lot of different people in the early going to get a feel for the team," Hayes told *Sidelines*. "Trisha DeValcourt is an excellent runner, and Chelsea Taylor and Laura Smith should really help our cross country program."

MT finished 16th at the Cardinal XC Classic in Louisville, Ky., as only two runners finished in the top 100. Erin Russell and Chelsea Taylor finished 94th and 95th, respectively.

In their final meet before the championships, the Lady Raiders placed five runners in the top 50. Taylor led the way with a 36th place finish. Laura Smith came in 45th, followed by Jerkita McClorin in 46th, Kerry Barrow in 48th and Nicolette Jarrett in 49th.

> "We don't have any distance runners, and it cost us."
>
> -Coach Hayes

Right: Kishara George (#123) and Trisha DeValcourt (#122) compete in this past November's Sun Belt Conference Championship.

Left: Rosemary Okafor warms up before competing in the Sunbelt Championships.
photos provided by Media Relations

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Middle Tennessee
123
146
Middle Tennessee
122
North Texas
137

women's Cross Country

roster

Kerry Barrow
Trisha DeValcourt
Kishara George
Nicolette Jarett
Jerkita McClorin
Rosemary Okafor
Candice Robertson
Laura Smith
Chelsea Taylor

Women's Golf

by Colleen Cox

The Lady Raider golf team didn't light up the Sun Belt Championships, but it proved it's a team not to be taken lightly.

MTSU posted its lowest round of the season, shooting a final round 311 at the Sun Belt Championships to take seventh place. Freshman Kristin Lynch shot her best round of the season with a third round 75. Kandace Burnett shot a three round 231 to finish tied for seventh. Tamara Munsch also posted a 231 total, securing her selection as an all-conference player.

"Kristin has been so close this season," head coach Rachael Moore said of her freshman. "I am proud and excited for her. She stayed focused on each shot and didn't get ahead of herself. She was mentally tough all day, and it was her day."

The Lady Raiders recorded their best finish in the history of the young program, finishing third at the Lady Eagle Invitational in Mississippi. MT had the lead after the first round, but a final round 321 dropped the Lady Raiders to third. Munsch tied for third place as an individual with a total score of 154. Burnett shot a 156 to finish in a tie for sixth.

"Overall, I am happy with the tournament because we reached our goal of finishing in the top five," Moore said. They took one shot at a time and managed the course extremely well for all 36 holes."

Munsch became the first women's golfer to win a tournament at the 2002 Chris Banister Classic. She shot a 154 to win by one stroke over three other players. The team put together an impressive final round and posted a 656 total to finish fifth.

"We beat the entire field today, so that is very encouraging," Moore said. "We earned another top five performance and played extremely well, considering our disappointing first round. I was very pleased and happy for Tamara. As close as she has been all year, she deserved to win."

In the next tournament, Munsch finished sixth, but the team placed 16th. Still, Moore was impressed with what she saw from her star.

"Tamara is playing excellent golf right now," Moore said. "This was a very competitive field, and she proved to be one of the top players." The Lady Raiders finished 12th and fourth in their other two tournaments.

2002 Roster

Nicole Biles
Kandace Burnett
Amanda Harter
Grace Holmes
Kristin Lynch
Tamara Munsch
Becky Newell
Kemmerlee Pennington

Junior Tamara Munsch ranks 313 out of 2,500 in women collegiate golfers. She played in all five tournaments and averaged 77.5 strokes per game.
photo by Amy Jones

Women's Soccer

Tough season with new head coach

by Colleen Cox

The first year under new head coach Aston Rhoden didn't go as well as the Middle Tennessee soccer team might have hoped. The team finished the season with an 8-12-1 overall record and a 3-5 record in the Sun Belt Conference.

The season was one of streaks for the Blue Raiders. MT started the season winning just one of its first seven games. The Blue Raiders defeated David Lipscomb 4-1 for their first victory of the season. MT bounced back from the losing streak, winning six of its next seven games, including two Sun Belt Conference wins against the University of Arkansas - Little Rock and Arkansas State University.

In the match against UALR, the Blue Raiders overcame an early deficit as Danielle LaDuke scored the game-winning goal and added an assist in the 3-1 win. MT relied on goalkeeper Emily Shrum and forward Laura Miguez for the victory over Arkansas State. Shrum made a diving save on a kick from ASU's Jen Widener that kept the match scoreless. Soon after, Miguez found the right corner of the goal for the only score of the game.

"At first, the intensity was not there for a conference game," Blue Raider head coach Aston Rhoden said of his team's performance against UALR. "Once we put points on the board, we calmed down some and played much better."

Following the winning streak, the Blue Raiders lost two Sun Belt contests then rebounded to win two, including one SBC matchup. However, the season quickly turned sour again as MT dropped its last four games of the season. The Blue Raiders suffered one of its toughest losses of the season to South Alabama during this stretch. South Alabama scored the game-winning goal with just 44 seconds left in the contest to steal the win from the Blue Raiders.

"The loss against South Alabama was pretty difficult to deal with because it was a game that we played well in and led at halftime by two goals," Rhoden said. "We didn't capitalize on some opportunities in the second half and ended up losing in the last 40 seconds of the match. That was a tough lesson and a tough loss for us."

The final loss for MT came in the Sun Belt tournament as North Texas beat the Blue Raiders 4-1, keeping them from their first ever Sun Belt tournament win. Lindsey Bopp scored the only goal in the match for MT. The goal was the first for the Blue Raiders in a SBC tournament match.

2002 Roster

Danielle Perreault
Emily Shrum
Britney Camden
Danielle LaDuke
Christina Mascaro
Megan McGregor
Sheri Robbins
Melissa Willman
Caroline McHugh
Lindsay Estes
Ashley Hicks
Ashley Elliott
Melissa Funke
Sarah Schulz
Emily Carter
Megan Ziegler
Jessica Northcutt
Brooke Ward
Laura Miguez
Nicki Fell
Lindsey Bopp
Sarah Schmidt
Jenny Cox
J'Keta Wilford
Sarah Linder

SOFTBALL

2007 roster

Amanda Kendall
Erica Buhl
Katie McGraw
Lisa Sherman
Leah Grothause
Lindsay Azevedo
Jennifer Polsteen
Ashlie Way
Kip Phillips
Jennifer Martinez
Danielle DeCamino
Laura Brockman
Steffi Silva
Kelly Cormier
Stacy Preator
Megan Cherinka
Kristina Hieb

The MTSU softball team ended its 2002 season much the same way it ended the 2001 season, losing to the University of Louisiana-Lafayette in the finals of the Sun Belt Conference tournament.

The Lady Raiders struggled during the regular season, posting a 20-28 overall record and a 3-9 conference record to make them the No. 4 seed in the tournament. However, two wins over New Mexico State and a win against No. 2 Florida International put MT in the finals of the SBC tournament.

Senior pitcher Jennifer Martinez tossed the first perfect game in Sun Belt tournament history and the second in MT history against FIU. Martinez was named to the All-Sun Belt Second Team with a 1.82 earned run average and 185 strikeouts.

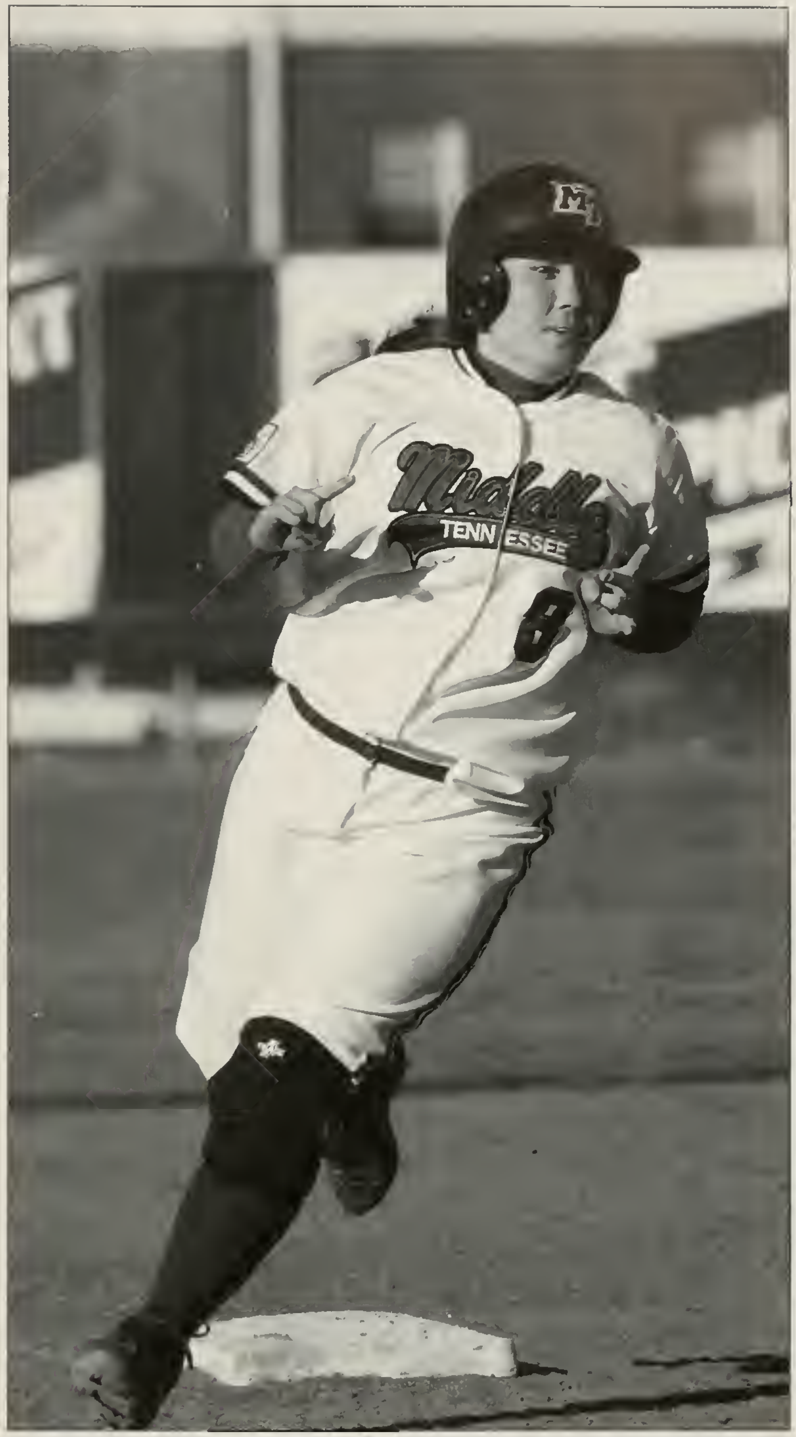
MT was under the direction of new head coach Cindy Connelley, who took over for Karen Green partway through the recruiting season. Connelley came from nearby Tennessee State University where she was named Ohio Valley Coach of the Year in 2001.

"There is a talented team in place and a strong administrative infrastructure, both with lofty goals," Connelley said when she took over a team that had won 41 games in 2001. "It will be a strong and successful partnership, and I'm anxious to start."

The Lady Raiders hit .238 as a team with a .303 on-base percentage and a .299 slugging percentage during the regular season. The pitching staff of Stacy Preator and Martinez posted ERAs of 1.89 and 1.93, respectively.

In the Sun Belt tournament, the team put all of the pieces together for the total game Connelley was looking for and made a great run. MT lost to a ULL team that was ranked No. 20 in the country. The Ragin' Cajuns had put the Lady Raiders in the loser's bracket with a 1-0 win in the second game of the tournament.

by Colleen Cox



Opposite page: Laura Brockman smashes a hit at the Tech Tournament.
photo by Amy Jones

Top: Lindsey Azevedo rounds second base looking for home.
photo provided by Photo Services

Far left: The team celebrates after a win.
photo by Amy Jones

Left: Stacy Preator winds up for the pitch.
photo provided by Photo Services

Women's Tennis

by Colleen Cox

The Lady Raider tennis team put together a record-breaking season in 2002. Top singles player Manon Kruse became the first women's tennis player in MTSU history to compete in the NCAA Individual Championships, and Kruse and doubles partner Stacy Varnell were the first doubles team to compete in the NCAA Women's Doubles Championships.

Kruse and Varnell also broke records for most wins in doubles matches. Kruse moved into first place with 30 wins, and Varnell moved into a tie for second place with 28. The team finished its season ranked No. 63 by the ITA Collegiate Tennis Rankings. Kruse ended the season ranked No. 43 in singles after posting a 24-6 overall record. Kruse and Varnell compiled a 28-8 record, good for a No. 19 ranking.

Kruse advanced to the NCAA Individual Championships for the first time but dropped her first match to Fresno State's Chloe Carlotti, eliminating her from the championships.

Varnell and Kruse pulled off a first round upset in the NCAA Women's Doubles Championships. The duo upset the No. 7 team of Maja Mlakar and Debbie Larocque from the University of Arizona to advance to the second round. In the second round, Varnell and Kruse lost to Stanford's Lauren Barnikow and Jessica Lehnoff, ending their season.

"Manon and Stacy played extremely well today," head coach Randy Holden said after the first round match. "We talked a lot last night about getting over being nervous and just going out there and having fun, and I think that helped them."

The Lady Raiders finsished their season as the sixth best team in the Sun Belt Conference. MT dropped its first match of the Sun Belt Championships 4-2 to Arkansas State. The Lady Raiders rebounded to beat Arkansas-Little Rock 4-3 in the consolation bracket. However, MT dropped its next match to New Mexico State 4-1 to finish sixth.

2002 Roster

Jennifer Klaschka
Manon Kruse
Verena Preiss
Stacy Varnell
Carien Venter
Emily Vest
Laura McNamara

Senior Michaela Gridling serves to her opponent during a singles match.
photo by Amy Jones

Women's Track

by Colleen Cox
photos by Amy Jones

The Lady Raider track team won the Sun Belt Indoor Championships and finished second in the Outdoor Championships to cap a successful season.

Middle Tennessee took an early lead in the Indoor Championships and remained strong, finishing the meet in first place with 138 points. The closest competitor was North Texas with 81 points.

The jumpers led the way for the Lady Raiders. Long jumper Kim Freeman pulled ahead of Louisiana-Lafayette's Clarissa Johnson on her final jump. Letitia Eady and Stephany Reid had already clenched the top two spots.

"I hadn't been jumping well in the long jump," Freeman told *Sidelines* following the competition. "I was nervous, but I knew I had to get a 5.93 for us to get all three [places]."

The MT jumpers finished the meet by taking the top six positions, setting an MT record.

"I was so excited when we swept; they had to hold me back," Eady told *Sidelines*. "We all are very good jumpers, and the team is very talented."

During the outdoor season, the women's 4-by-400 meter relay team of Kishara George, Lanora Gray, Rosemary Okafor and Bromeka Holmes set a school record at the Texas Relays, finishing in a time of 3 minutes 39.35 seconds.

The Lady Raiders finished second at the Sun Belt Outdoor Championships in May. The jumpers came through again, scoring 30 points in the triple jump and 19 in the long jump. Reid set a record at the meet with a 41-10 3/4 jump, earning her Outstanding Performer honors. Jameka Collins finished second, and Eady took third.

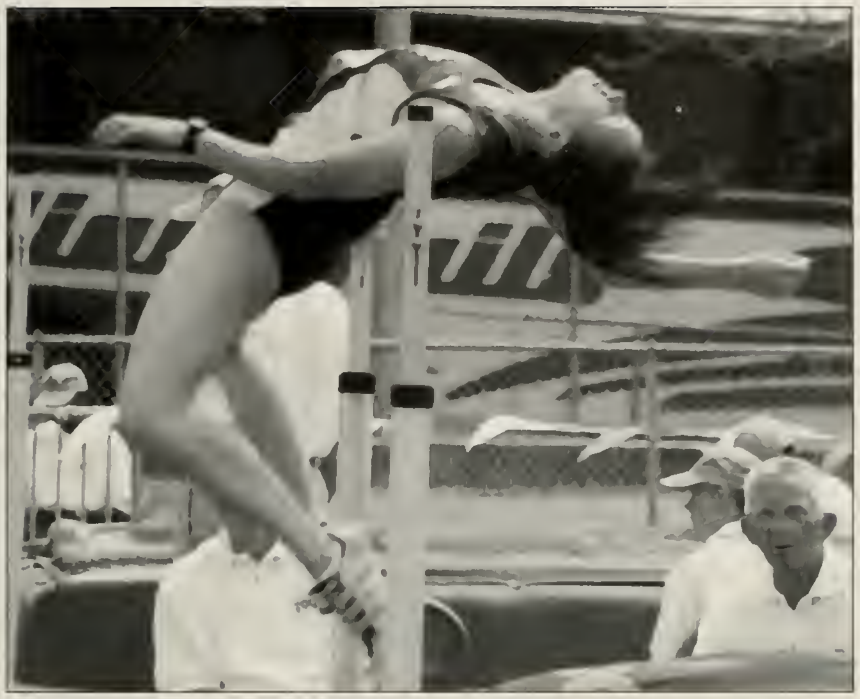
"The women were fantastic in the jumps, scoring 49 points between the long and triple jumps," head coach Dean Hayes said.

Despite several provisional qualifiers, the Lady Raider track team didn't have any competitors make it to the NCAA Championships.

Left: Kim Freeman takes to the air in her attempt at the triple jump.

Opposite page, top: Amanda Forrester twists her body in an effort to clear the marker in this high jump attempt.

Opposite page, bottom: Kelly Smith focuses on clearing the hurdles during a race at the Sea Ray Relays in Knoxville.



Middle Tennessee
770
TENNE
ESSEE
5

2002 Roster

Naomi Ansah
Tori Blander
LaToya Brown
Jameka Collins
Kiki Deckard
Letitia Eady
Amanda Forrester
Kim Freeman
Kishara George
Lanora Gray
Bromeka Holmers
Jennifer Howard
Rolanda Howard
Nicolette Jarrett
Lashon Kennedy
Dara McLean
Rosemary Okafor
Coleen Parker
Stephany Reid
Kelley Smith

Volleyball

women's

Lady Raiders finish even on their season.

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team experienced its share of ups and downs but peaked at the right time, reaching the semifinals of the Sun Belt Conference tournament.

After starting its season off winning seven of their first 10 games, the Lady Raiders experienced hard times losing six of their next 10 games. MT also lost three of its first five Sun Belt games. The Lady Raiders finished the season by going 5-5 in their final 10 games to close the regular season.

MT pulled off an upset in the first round of the SBC tournament, beating the No. 3 seed North Texas 3-2. The Lady Raiders were down 10-6 in the final game, but got back into the game with a 4-1 run. After an errant North Texas kill tied the game at 14, Katie Thiesen gave MT the lead on a kill. A net call against North Texas won the match for the Lady Raiders.

"When we were down 9-6, I just told the team to keep fighting," head coach Lisa Kissee said. "I told them to believe in themselves, and we could win this game."

The Lady Raiders weren't as fortunate in the semifinals as No. 2 seed New Mexico State won 3-0. MT forged a comeback attempt in the third game, but NMSU shut that down with a 6-1 run that helped them win the game and the match.

MT played well against teams from the state of Tennessee as well. The Lady Raiders took victories over UT Chattanooga, Austin Peay and Memphis before falling 3-2 to the University of Tennessee. MT also had a disappointing loss against a Belmont team that was 6-21 at the time.

"This is what happens when you take a team lightly," Kissee said of the Belmont match. "We just looked at their record and knew that they weren't very good and didn't come out and play the way we needed to."

2002 roster

Erin Hillstrom
Evi Gargalianos
Dara McLean
Kim Doran
Jennifer Hignite
Jennifer McMahon
Katie Thiesen
Kelly Cannon
Karisse Baker
Meaghan Byrd
Kelly Quinn
KeKe Deckard
Kimberly Moeller
Jessamyn Bradley

> "When we were down 9-6, I just told the team to keep fighting...I told them to believe in themselves, and we could win this game."
>
> -Head Coach Lisa Kissee

Right: Junior Erin Hillstrom prepares to serve the ball during a game in the Alumni Memorial Gym. **photo by Amy Jones**

1
Middle Tennessee
2
Middle
Middle
8
Middle Tennessee
Baden

closing

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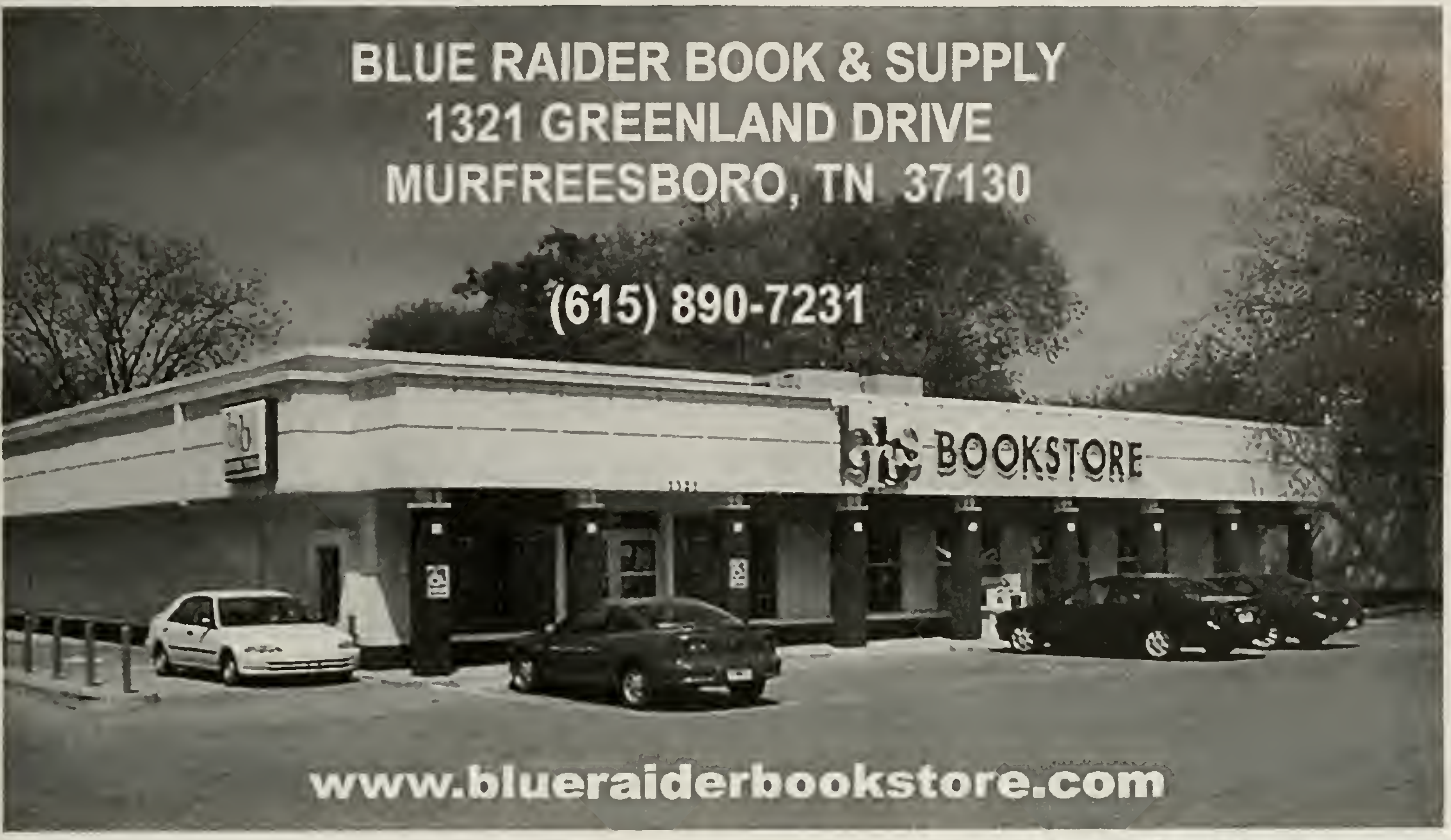
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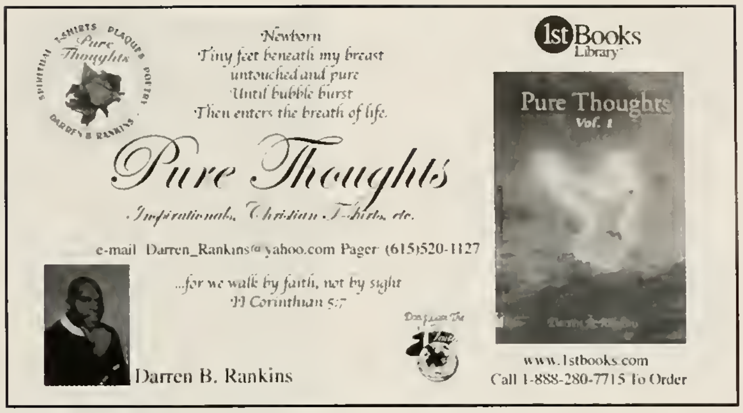

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Tiny feet beneath my breast
untouched and pure
Until bubble burst
Then enters the breath of life.

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Mmm...lunch time, ante up to the fajita grill at the KUC.

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Mark,

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The Blassingames

-Mom, Ben, Jennifer, and Mr.Killer

Mitch,

You have worked hard and we are very proud of you.

Love, Mom, Dad, Joey, & Andrew

**Amanda, "Nott Nott,"
Once a Raider always a Raider.
We are so proud of you and love you...Soooo much.**

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Very best wishes to Jadrea Kay Allen—our "pretty little sunshine." May you always exhibit God's very special blessings.

Love, Dad, Momma, and Joel

How big was he Tevye? Ahh, he was this big!!!

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James (Jim) Charles Ford
May you succeed in all you do.
I am so proud of you!

Love, Mom

Clint,
The family's proud of you.
Setting the trend for the
future...combining hard work
with academics to ensure success.

Watch out! Yearbook magic in progress!

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So I say to him "2003, ha, you'll be lucky if you're in the Honors building by 2004!"

2002 Year in Review

The more things change, the more they stay the same. That old saying is becoming quite a bit overused now, but it still holds many truths for the MTSU campus. The students and staff are screaming, "We want to be a big university," but are saying under their breath, "As long as I don't have to pay or work for it." Everyone screams for more student involvement, but it's always been a commuter college.

2002 was Dr. McPhee's first full year as our university president, and boy what a year it was. McPhee is 100 percent for the students. He knows the students are at the heart of any university, and mark these words, the university will blossom under his leadership. It is going to be an uphill battle, though. Right in the middle of 2002, the state government shut down, leaving the future of our university uncertain and definitely unsettled. This effects the roots of the university system and what higher education is all about.

The university continues to grow at a tremendous pace, far outdistancing the resources available for the population. While growth is being managed as best as it can be, there are many issues, some outlined in this book, which need to be addressed so the growing pains can be remedied. Some issues we didn't mention, such as why on-campus housing has remained at the same capacity over a period of 30 years. In that time the university has doubled in size, but housing hasn't.

In the sports arena, our teams continue to be succesful. Well, maybe. Our award for most improved goes to the men's basketball team. What a difference a coach with discipline can make, and the scoreboard shows the difference too. Our award for most disappointing has to go to the football team.We suport the team as best as we can, but we can't help but think that they bit off a little more than they could chew this year. Why play against four SEC teams in four weeks only to be too beat up and tired to defeat a second division team at home in front of a record crowd? Way to lose a fan base.

Benazir Bhutto came and spoke on campus in November. It's hard to imagine being an exiled democratic leader of a country that we are allies with. We also had an Olympic gold medalist make a brief stop on campus. Unfortunately, no one showed up, not even athletes!

Once again the entertainment value on campus came up short. Last year, it was the Baha Men who were paid an exorbitant amount of money to sing their infamous hit. This year it was an Atlanta suburbanite pretending he's a redneck rapper. Considering the shows MTSU has hosted in the past, this is truly pathetic.

To be not entirely negative, the university is a good place to be. It's probably the best value in public higher education in the southeast for a major research university. Best of all – they finally developed a comprehensive parking plan!

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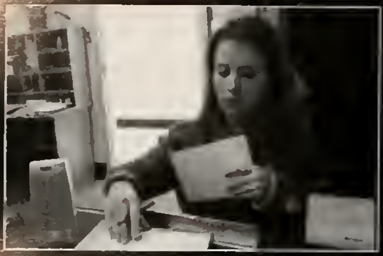

Jennifer Neas
Position: Assistant Editor
Year: Junior
Strengths: The hardest working member of the *Midlander* team. Makes key plays in clutch moments of the game and keeps the game rolling.
History: Third year on *Midlander* team after being editor of hometown team. Also currently plays for hometown newspaper team in the off-season.

Matt Bogdan
"   "
Position: Creative Editor
Year: Graduated
Strengths: Incredible at all things linear and non-linear, thinks outside of the box and pushes the creative envelope.
History: Second full year on the *Midlander* team after aquired as a free agent. Also plays in the off-season for *Collage* and last year was on the small but powerful *Freshman Register* team.

Jeff Harding
"Heavy J"
Position: Copy Editor
Year: Senior
Strengths: Has a tremendous grasp of the English language and works tirelessly, correcting mistake after mistake even after he's already fixed that mistake.
History: Has no previous publishing experience before this year but has been an irreplaceable cog in the *Midlander* wheel since he joined the team. Now he is interviewing for magazine teams.

Matthew H. Starling
"Sarge"
Position: Photo Editor/Photographer
Year: Senior
Strengths: Playing on the collegiate level after being a pro "fotojournalist" for many years. Lends his experience to the younger guys on the team.
History: Played in the pro leagues before coming back to college. Previously editor of *Midlander* and currently editor of *Collage*.

Amy Jones
Position: Photographer/Photo Editor
Year: Junior
Strengths: Tireless, like the Energizer bunny.
History: Experience in the newspaper summer leagues at home and has played in the student newspaper league at MTSU the last three years. Came on board with the team full time in mid-season.

Amy Taylor
Position: Ad Rep/Marketing/Designated writer/photographer
Year: Freshman
Strengths: Volunteers to fill any position when needed.
History: First year on team but comes with four years of experience in the high school leagues!

2003 Roster

Ly'andre Woods
"Andre"
Position: Ad Rep/Marketing
Year: Junior
Strengths: Seems to know everyone in the stands.
History: First year on team, came in and made a good impression with some early hard work.

Marla Henry
Position: Student worker
Year: Sophomore
Strengths: Is in the dugout everyday ready to work.
History: First year with the *Midlander*.

Jessy Yancey
"Jessica Louise" "All-Star"
Position: Editorial Staff
Year: Freshman
Strengths: Good all-arounder, strong writing and editing skills and shows promise for future leadership.
History: First year on the Midlander team, previously editor of her high school team.

Elizabeth Gregory
Position: Editorial Staff
Year: Freshman
Strengths: Tries to do anything she can and can knock out an index in under an hour.
History: First year on team, has potential to take it further. Was editor of high school team.

Jenny Tenpenny Crouch
"The Skipper"
Position: Director
History: Has over a decade of experience with the team both as a coach and a student. Keeps our heads above water and gives advice when we solicit it.

Brenda Denney
Position: Office Manager
Strengths: Plays the numbers game for the *Midlander* and keeps us happy.
History: Has worked in the office of the *Midlander* parent organization, Student Publications, for over nine years.

Patience Cohee
Position:Student Worker
Year: Junior
Strengths: Is the older sister of the team. Works to make sure the team is grounded in reality and busts their chops to keep their heads in the game and to keep them from getting discouraged.
History: Has worked in the parent organization office for three years.

For the 2003 Yearbook Staff:

Where would any editor be without his staff? I couldn't even begin to wonder. My staff has been more than 90 percent responsible for the book you hold here now. This is why I am dedicating a space just for my gratitude towards them. It's been a long, hard road for the Midlander and its staff, but the future looks bright.

My main thanks goes out to Assistant Editor Jennifer Neas. As far as time spent working for the *Mildander*, she and I are on par. Three years ago, Jennifer and I began working on a grossly overdue book with an idea of where we wanted to take it when we got the chance to be creative. Jennifer took the countless ideas we talked about and made them happen. She was the backbone of coordinating the staff and putting our ideas into tangible form. Thank you so much!

Matt Bogdan has continued to amaze me. Now that he had some legitimate creative freedom, we were able to create something that exceled above other universities. He studied their forms and always said, "we can do better." He designed the bulk of the pages and worked countless all nighters to make sure we met deadline. Thanks, I'll miss you!

Jeff Harding! I can't begin to tell you how badly we needed to get a handle on our quality control. I'm so glad you took the job. Isn't it funny how things work out? Thanks for learning AP style above your crazy english skills. You've definitely been the best copy editor *Midlander* has ever had. Thanks for being such a good friend, too!

The above three people could not have created the best book in *Midlander* history, though, without a strong supporting cast.

Matt Starling, I know you've been busy, but you've been around with Jennifer, Matt and I the longest. Things were tough this year, but I really appreciate you trying, more than you know.

Amy Jones, thanks for coming in late in the game and picking up photo duties; it helped out a lot. I'm sure next year will be great working with Jennifer.

I would also like to thank our Feshman crew of Amy Taylor, Elizabeth Gregory and Jessy Yancey. I hope we don't set the bar to high for you all in the future when you finally get control of the book. It does make me glad that the vision will continue.

Andre, thanks for all the hard work on ads earlier in the year and picking up some writing assignments later on. You've done some of the smaller stuff thats helped out quite a bit.

I would also like to thank Patience for giving me crap on a regular basis in an effort to keep me grounded. It will be helpful somewhere down the road, right?

Marla, you've done a lot of grunt work, and I appreciate that immensely.

Jenny, thanks for keeping us floating. I know you've been under a lot of stress but I hope we can give you some ammunition to fight with now. When and if the time comes to retire the *Midlander*, hopefully there will be consequences to such a motion.

Brenda, thanks for always keeping me up on payroll and doing whatever it takes (wink) to make sure I kept getting that paycheck.

Sometimes I'm really bad at showing my appreciation when I have to in person. But I always have been thankful to have the people around me that I do, or life would have been really, really difficult this year.

SPRINGFIELD

Left: of all the celebs I've met in college, Butch Walker is definitely number one on the list of people that rock.

Right: What would a trip home though Kentucky be without passing the used cow for sale sign? What exaclty is a used cow? I called the number but never could find out.

USED COWS
SALE

Right: New Orleans and the big 21with no other than the yearbook staff. God Bless the CMA Conference. Jennifer, why are you hiding back there?

Below: Obviously a little too much time spent in the Midlander office.

Left: Jim Shea and the Olympic Gold Medal. I'll have one of my own someday.

From the Editor:

To be perfectly honest, I didn't expect to be hanging around MTSU still in 2003. I really believed four years ago that I was only going to stay for about a year before heading off to someplace warm and sunny. But something stuck or clicked, or maybe it was just the people and the professors I met and had contact with. Regardless, here I am, four years later and about to graduate, thankful for all the time and the experiences I have had here.

One of the best experiences I have had is working on the publication you are holding in your hands. This climb to editorship started off innocuously enough in high school, working on the newspaper and yearbook staffs, but I didn't ever give the yearbook a real thought. However, I was working for *Sidelines* my freshman year as I saw the then current staff of the *Midlander* just running the book into the toilet. So when the powers that be finally got rid of that staff, I–along with a small group of dedicated people–decided that MTSU deserved better. This is the culmination of our dreams and our efforts.

It's really amazing to look at the book at this point and compare it to four years ago, even to just one year ago. This is an award winning book, one that has consitently drawn praise from everyone who these pages have passed in front of. I know this may sound as a sort of contrite beating of our own drum, but it's true. In reflection, it's something to be proud of. But awards mean nothing when we can't provide something that you–the student–want to read and be able to enjoy 10, 20 or 50 years from now. It is our job to find and decide which of the best and most memorable items from the past year should be in the book.

It's not any easy job to accomplish. At a major university, there are so many events; a full time staff of five and another 20 part-time cannot hope to fit them all in a space of 304 pages. Also, we rely on you, the reader to provide us with info and pictures as well, especially Greeks and student organizations. It is impossible for us to include it all, but we try.

This year, we also wanted to try this year to include a section titled Issues. It would be an oversight on our part to include only positive, fluffy content. Not all of our issues are negative; some are very positive yet politically oriented. It is intended to add another dynamic to the book, and I hope it is succesful and is carried on for a long time.

On that note, I want to thank everyone who has helped shape the person I am today due to my experiences in college. This has been a great period in my life, and I'm proud to have the *Mildander* as my own sort of scrapbook.

-Robert C. Evans

Tones that sound, and roar and storm about
me until I have set them down in notes.
-- Beethoven

Character is destiny.
-Heraclitus

What lies behind us and what lies before us are
tiny matters compared to what lies within us.
--Ralph Waldo Emerson

The most disadvantageous
peace is better than the
most just war.
-- Desiderius Erasmus

Capitalism has destroyed our belief in any effective
power but that of self interest backed by force.
-George Bernard Shaw

Happiness
depends
upon
ourselves.
-Aristotle

All real education is the architecture of the soul.
-William Bennedict

The darkest hour in any man's life is when he sits down
to plan how to get money without earning it.
- Horace Greeley

Peace is the happy natural state of man; war is corruption and disgrace.

-- James Thomson

The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook.

-- William James

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body. --Joseph Addison

Life is the risk we cannot refuse.

-Mason Cooley

The man that hath no music in himself, Nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds, Is fit for treasons, stratagems and spoils.

--William Shakespeare

Life beats down and crushes the soul, and art reminds you that you have one.

-- Adler Stella

IF I'M DREAMING, NEVER LET ME WAKE. IF I'M AWAKE, NEVER LET ME SLEEP.

-CHINESE PROVERB

THE
END
IS
NEAR